The New Taxonomy of Programs
What Is The T.O.P.?

- Used for State data purposes
- Intended for programs, but also used for courses
- Not intended to control local decisions:
  - Departmental organization
  - Faculty qualifications
  - Budgeting
  - Curriculum
Why Revision Was Needed

- No major overhaul since 1979
- Out-of-date titles
- Misaligned hierarchies
- Duplications and overlaps
- New technologies, new jobs = new T.O.P. codes needed
Source of Revisions

- Suggestions from individuals in the field
- Catalog reviews during program revalidation
- Observations from new program approvals
- Consultation with faculty groups
- Recommendations from statewide occupational advisory committees
Principles of Revision

- No more changes than necessary
- Use new numbers for new titles
- Make T.O.P. titles correspond to local program titles
- No programs, no code
- Make most codes at 4-digit level – avoid hierarchies
Changes in the Sixth Edition
Some T.O.P. Titles Updated

- Office Technology/Office Computer Applications
- Information Technology
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Human Services
- Health Facility Unit Coordinator
- Environmental Technology
Correction of Misalignments

- Biological Sciences and Biology
- Marketing and International Trade
- Sanitation and Industrial Safety
- RN and LVN
- Dental Technician and Dental Assistant
- Lifespan and Gerontology
New T.O.P. Titles and Codes

- 88 new titles
- Most new titles added in:
  - Agriculture
  - Media and Communications
  - Engineering and Industrial Tech
  - Education
  - Health
- Other new titles in almost every discipline
The Problem of Multimedia and the Web

- Computers & art = ⚡!
- Interdisciplinary by nature, “ownership” split
- Ed>Net Multimedia Initiative proposal
- Web-related programs
- E-commerce
New Discipline: Environmental Science and Technology

- Environmental Science crosses physical and biological boundaries
- Environmental Studies crosses natural and social boundaries
- Environmental Technology is more sophisticated
Implementation of Changes
Program Inventory Conversion and MIS Crosswalk

- Program Inventory conversion
  - One and a half months
- MIS T.O.P. to C.I.P. Crosswalk Chart
  - One Month concurrent activity to Program Inventory conversion
College Notification of Changes

- Production of old Program Inventory and new Program Inventory
  - PDF File Format
- E-mailed to colleges
- One month to review
Program Inventory Reconciliation

- Colleges submits proposed reconciliation
- Two months process to reconcile all program inventories
Future T.O.P. Code Changes
Instructional Program

Definition

- A combination of courses and experiences that is designed to accomplish a predetermined objective or set of allied objectives such as preparation for advanced study, qualification for an occupation or range of occupations, or simply the increase of knowledge and understanding. (and Hill, A Classification of Educational Subject Matter, NCES, 1978, p. 165).
Operational Criteria
1) An instructional program must be offered by, through, or under the auspices of certificates and degrees awarded by colleges.
2) The program must consist of more than one isolated course or learning experience and must not be a haphazard collection of unrelated courses or experiences. (This standard does not apply to Discipline 49, “Interdisciplinary Studies”)
3) **There must be a set of structured learning experiences, defined by an institution or other provider, leading to a completion point that is formally certified by a degree, another formal award, or some other form of recognition.**
Criteria for Adding a New Program
Federal survey data showing that at least 30 program completions have been reported over a 3-year period in at least 10 California Community Colleges in three or more districts (e.g., from surveys such as IPEDS). This standard does not apply to Discipline 49, “Interdisciplinary Studies.”
- Written requests for new codes provided via federal education surveys and meeting the threshold criterion above;
Requests from other federal agencies or state agencies for new or modified codes together with evidence of the existence of such programs and the need for them;
Evidence, including testimony, of authorities in a field who state, and provide evidence to show, that a new program exists and is offered; and/or
Empirical evidence of program viability based on the authors' review of primary sources and related databases at both the secondary and postsecondary levels.
Criteria for Deleting a Program
Federal survey data showing that fewer than 30 program completions were recorded over a three-year period, in less than 10 California Community Colleges and spread across fewer than three districts;
Evidence, including testimony, from authorities in a field who state and provide evidence to show, that a program is or will no longer be offered or recognized; and/or
Empirical evidence that a program is not in fact offered based on the authors' review of primary sources and databases at both the secondary and postsecondary levels.
Process for Adding/Deleting a Program