Non-credit Instruction
California Education Code, Section 66010.4 (B) states that, "The provision of adult noncredit education in areas defined as being in the state's interest is an essential and important function of the community colleges." Noncredit instruction offers students access to a variety of low and no cost courses that can assist them in reaching their personal and professional goals.

The main purpose of noncredit instruction is to provide students with lifelong learning, college transfer and career preparation opportunities. The Noncredit at a Glance publication defines "noncredit instruction as an 'educational gateway' or a 'portal to the future.' It serves as a key contributor to 'open access' for students with diverse backgrounds and those seeking ways to improve their earning power, literacy skills and access to higher education (p.3)."

Funding Categories
The state of California classifies non-credit instruction into ten legislated instructional areas. The Non-Credit at a Glance publication defines each category and the types of courses appropriate for each of the ten categories. (This document is available on the CE website http://www.sbcc.edu/ce/general_info/state-support.php).

1. English as a Second Language-ESL (includes Vocational ESL)
2. Parenting Education
3. Elementary and Secondary Basic skills
4. Citizenship for Immigrants
5. Education Programs for Persons with Substantial Disabilities
6. Short-term Vocational Programs with High Employment Potential
7. Education Programs for Older Adults
8. Family and Consumer Sciences (Home Economics)
10. Workforce Preparation

There are four (4) special population categories:
1. Citizenship for Immigrants
2. Parenting
3. Education Programs for Persons with Substantial Disabilities
4. Education Programs for Older Adults

The remaining six (6) categories address several disciplines or skills areas:
1. Elementary and Secondary Basic Skills
2. ESL (includes Vocational ESL)
3. Family and Consumer Sciences
4. Home and Safety Education
5. Short-term Vocational Programs with High Employment Potential
6. Workforce Preparation

**Workforce Preparation**
Workforce Preparation is the newest category. Workforce preparation introduces students to skills such as valuing diversity at work, accessing and navigating informational technology and applying interpersonal skills necessary for teamwork. It specifically includes courses in the basic skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing, mathematics, decision-making, and problem solving skills that are necessary to participate in job-specific technical training.

The following colleges offer certificates (courses) in workforce preparation:
- **Antelope Valley College** – *Workforce Readiness Certificate* (Developing as a Professional: Promotability, Job Search Readiness, Surviving the Probationary Period)
- **Imperial Valley College** – *Supervision Certificate* (Business Communication, Enhancing Employee Performance, Harassment and Discrimination Prevention, Managing Employee Performance)
- **Los Angeles City College** – *Career Discovery Certificate* (Blueprint to Workplace Success, Job Club), *Customer Service Certificate* (Blueprint for Workplace Success, Blueprint for Customer Service, 30 Ways to Shine as a New Employee)

**Education Programs for Older Adults**
Courses for older adults were included in the mandated list since the legislature recognized their benefit to the State. The State approved "Education Programs for Older Adults" with a specific definition. It also recognized standards for a model program, assessment and content. The State defines older adult education as "courses specifically designed to offer lifelong learning education that provides opportunities for personal growth and development, community involvement, skills for mental and physical well-being and economic self-sufficiency."

Noncredit community college older adult education serves the full continuum of seniors in the state of California with programs designed to stimulate, challenge, maintain and improve the minds and bodies of students (55+). Classes focus on meeting the needs of the aging population by incorporating positive aging skills and resource information.

Research on physical and mental health confirms that lifelong learning and physical fitness add productive quality years to the lives of older students, allowing them to thrive as productive citizens (*California Community Educators of Older Adults*).

SBCC Continuing Education older adult students state they attend classes to maintain their mental and physical fitness, engage in their community, and develop essential support systems. Education Programs for Older Adults provide a support network that allows students to live independently in their local communities. Older Adult research documents that educational and social activity group interventions, that target specific groups, may alleviate social isolation among older adults.
In January 2010, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges took action to reaffirm Santa Barbara City College's accreditation. The report of the evaluation team cited nine commendations. Commendation 5 specifically acknowledged SBCC's Continuing Education division.

**Commendation 5:** The Team commends the college and its Continuing Education division for the scope and quality of its programs for older adults. The breadth of course offerings and the extraordinary, long-term popularity of the programs make it unique among community colleges. (II.A. 1.)