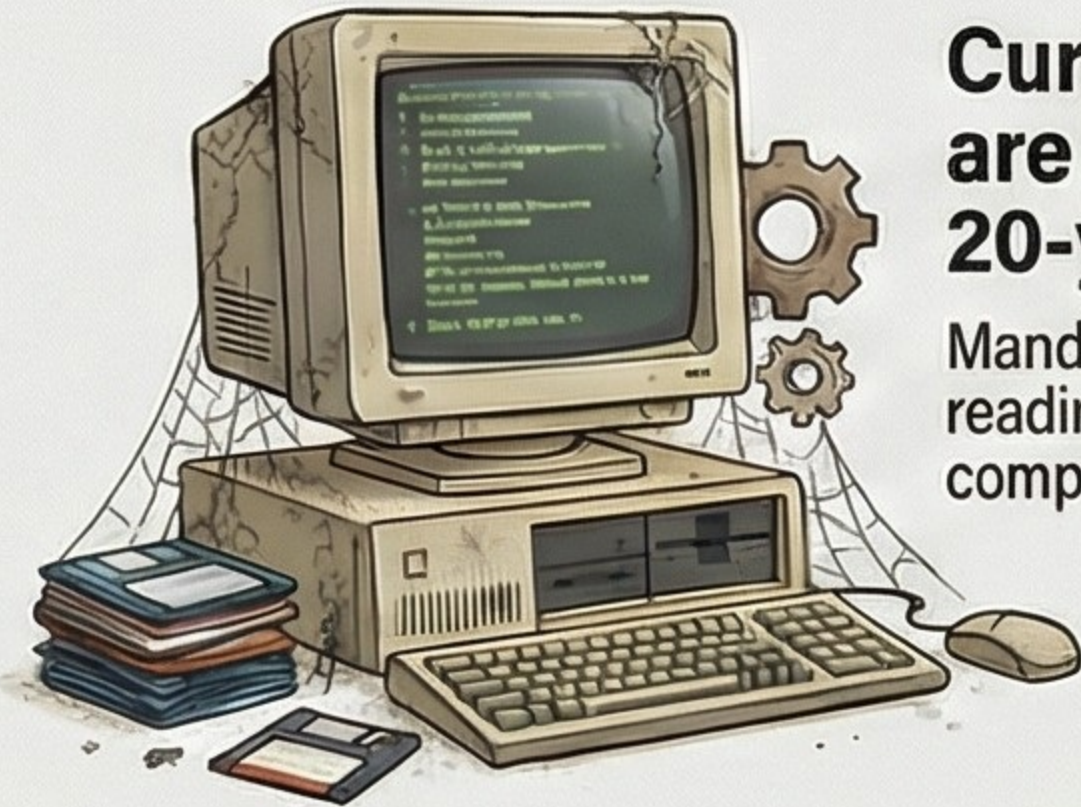# Modernizing Degree Competencies for Tomorrow's Workforce

North Carolina's current community college degree competency standards are based on outdated 1997-2003 accreditation criteria. A statewide project is now underway to modernize these standards, ensuring graduates possess the relevant, durable skills that employers need today and in the future.
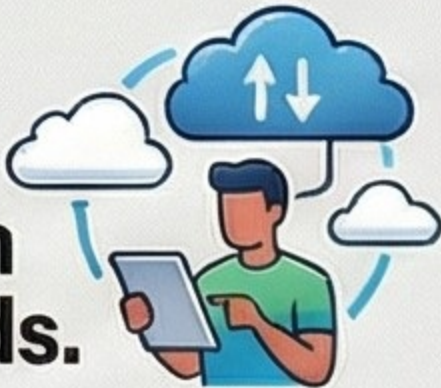
## THE CHALLENGE: OUTDATED STANDARDS

**Current competencies are based on 20-year-old criteria.**

Mandated skills include basic reading, writing, math, and computer use.

**A gap exists between education and employer needs.**

Workforce skills have evolved significantly, but required competencies have remained static.

## THE GOAL: ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

**Modernized, Workforce-Aligned Competencies**

The state code will reflect the durable skills employers actually expect.

**Stronger Program Alignment & Faculty Support**

Creates uniform expectations and provides faculty-ready resources for assessment.

## THE PROCESS: A ROADMAP TO MODERNIZATION

(Timeline: By April 30, 2026)

**1. Task Force Formation & Environmental Scan**

Assemble experts, engage employers, and review peer frameworks and skills reports.
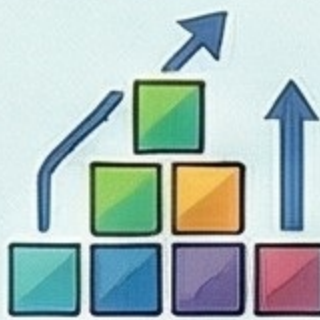
**2. Drafting, Field Review & Revision**

Develop new competency language and circulate drafts to stakeholders for feedback.

**3. Code Amendment & Implementation Support**

Submit new language for approval and provide faculty with resources and training.

NotebookLM