

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

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May 22, 2012

To: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Academic Senate Presidents

From: Jack Scott, Chancellor *Jack Scott*

Subject: Associate Degrees for Transfer

I am pleased to announce excellent progress in the approval of associate degrees for transfer under Senate Bill 1440 (Padilla), the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act. All 112 California community colleges have received Chancellor's Office approval for at least two associate degrees for transfer and several colleges have many more. At this time, a total of 347 associate degrees for transfer (AA-T and AS-T degrees) have been approved, statewide. In addition, many colleges currently have more degrees moving through the local approval process. For the most recent listing of approved AA-T and AS-T degrees, visit [What's New on the Academic Affairs](#).

We have been able to accomplish this great progress as a system in large part due to the leadership of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and the Academic Senate of the California State University. Working together, the two Senates developed Transfer Model Curricula (TMC) to provide curricular frameworks for college degrees in each of the most popular transfer majors. Because TMCs have been developed at the system-level by California Community Colleges (CCC) and California State University (CSU) faculty, they offer colleges a helpful structure to use as they work to develop AA-T and AS-T degrees.

Benefits of the AA-T and AS-T Degrees

AA-T and AS-T degrees offer tremendous benefits to our students desiring transfer to CSU. Most importantly, these new degrees provide clear, statewide curricular pathways that students can follow as they pursue transfer to any CSU campus. Upon completion of these degrees, students will be guaranteed admission to a CSU campus with junior standing. While not guaranteed admission to their campus of choice, students will be given priority consideration for admission to their local CSU campus and to any CSU campus that offers a program that has been designated as "similar" by CSU. Once enrolled at CSU, students will be able to complete a Bachelor of Arts or Science degree with no more than 60 additional units. Given these benefits, it is clear that these degrees represent a vast improvement in how California's systems of public higher education serve our students.

I also want to draw your attention to recent changes in admissions policies at the CSU which have significantly increased the importance of these degrees to our students and colleges. As a result of deep cuts in state funding, CSU has severely restricted admissions for the Spring 2013 term and will only be admitting California community college transfer students possessing AA-T and AS-T degrees. As long as tight state budgets persist, the degrees for transfer may be the only option available for our students attempting to transfer to CSU. This reality significantly elevates the need for our colleges to increase the number of AA-T and AS-T degrees offered.

Next Steps in Implementation

Transfer Model Curriculum Development. The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has collaborated with the Academic Senate for the California State University to develop statewide TMCs in the most popular majors completed by students who transfer to CSU. To date, the approved TMC majors include: Administration of Justice, Art History, Journalism, Business Administration, Communication Studies, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Teacher Education, English, Geography, Geology, History, Kinesiology, Mathematics, Music, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Studio Arts, and Theatre Arts. Faculty representing additional majors will be working to develop TMCs in additional majors such as Chemistry, Computer Science, Anthropology, Spanish, Philosophy, TV/Radio/Film, and Social Work. The CCC and CSU Academic Senates have committed to having TMCs published in 25 disciplines by September 2012.

Degree Development and Approval. As we look ahead, it is critical that colleges continue to develop AA-T and AS-T degrees in all majors in which their students seek to transfer in order to ensure that community college students have a broad range of viable transfer pathways to CSU campuses across the state. To spur progress toward this objective, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors has adopted a goal of each college having AA-T and AS-T degrees approved by Fall of 2013 in 80 percent of the majors they offer in which there is a TMC and in 100 percent by Fall of 2014. While this goal is ambitious, it is imperative that we move rapidly to help more students move efficiently through our two systems because too many students are being shut out by California's current budget situation.

It is important to note that the CSU system has also set concrete goals for further implementation of SB 1440 in the next year. Among these is the goal that, by the end of Spring 2012, each CSU campus will provide a degree pathway in every major it offers for which there is a TMC. This will be accomplished by each CSU campus declaring at least one of its degrees to be "similar" to the TMC in each major it offers for which there is a TMC.

I encourage your continued attention to ensure that your institution is on track to make these new transfer degrees available to your students. I know that some colleges will be working on curriculum development over the summer. Many more will launch curriculum development in the Fall. As you move forward in this work, I ask for your full engagement to make sure that we realize the tremendous potential of the new AA-T and AS-T degrees to help our transfer-bound students succeed in achieving their educational goals.

cc: Chief Student Services Officers