
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Carol Liu, Chair
2015 - 2016 Regular

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Subject: Postsecondary education: University of California: student transfers

SUMMARY

This bill requests the University of California (UC) Regents to annually report from 2017-2022, as specified, on California Community Colleges (CCC) transfer students admitted to the UC.

BACKGROUND

Existing law declares the Legislature's intent that the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC), for purposes of enrollment planning and admission priority practice at the undergraduate level, prioritize California Community College transfer students in an approved transfer agreement program, among others. (Education Code § 66202)

Existing law requires the Board of Governors of the CCC, the UC Regents, and the Trustees of the CSU, in consultation with their respective Academic Senates, to jointly develop, maintain and disseminate a common core curriculum in general education course for the purposes of transfer, and establishes a variety of related requirements. The UC is specifically requested to establish articulation of major preparation courses, transfer agreements, and transfer pathways. (EC § 66720-66722.5)

Existing law requires each department, school, and major of the UC and CSU to establish discipline specific articulation and transfer program agreements for majors with lower division prerequisites and establishes a number of related reporting and other requirements. (EC § 66740, et seq.)

Existing law establishes the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act under which CCC districts are required to develop and grant a transfer associate degree that deems the student eligible for transfer into the CSU, when the student meets specified course requirements. In addition, the CSU is required to guarantee admission with junior status to any community college student who meets specified requirements, but provides that the student is not guaranteed admission for specific majors or campuses. However, the CSU is required to grant a student priority admission to his or her local CSU campus and to a program or major that is similar to his or her community college major or area of emphasis, as determined by the CSU campus to which the student is admitted. Students that utilize the associate transfer degree process are required to receive priority over all other community college transfer students, except for community college

students who have entered into a transfer agreement between a community college and the CSU prior to the fall term of the 2012-13 academic year. (EC § 66745-66749.5)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires the regents of the University of California (UC) to annually report on California Community College (CCC) transfer students admitted to the UC, as specified, beginning no later than March 2017 and until March 2022. Specifically it:
 - a) Requires reporting on students who indicate on their admission application that they received an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) and who were admitted, broken down by the UC campus. It requires that the UC report:
 - i) The number of these students along with their average community college grade point average.
 - ii) The admissions and yield rate for these students.
 - iii) The number of these students who enrolled along with their average community college grade point average.
 - iv) The number of these students who graduated from the UC within 2 or 3 years for the cohort graduating in the year of each report.
 - b) Requires reporting on students who used the transfer admission guarantee and were granted admission to the UC, broken down by UC campus. It requires that the UC report:
 - i) The number of these students along with their average community college grade point average.
 - ii) The admissions and yield rate for these students.
 - iii) The number of these students who enrolled along with their average community college grade point average.
 - iv) The number of these students who graduated from the UC within 2 or 3 years for the cohort graduating in the year of each report.
 - c) No later than March 1, 2019, requests that these annual reports include information students who used a UC Transfer Pathway and were granted admission to the UC, broken down by UC campus. It:
 - i) The number of these students along with their average community college grade point average.
 - ii) The admissions and yield rate for these students.

- iii) The number of these students who enrolled along with their average community college grade point average.
 - iv) The number of these students who graduated from the University of California (UC) within 2 or 3 years for the cohort graduating in the year of each report.
- 2) Requests, to the extent the information is available, that the UC report each category outlined broken down by student ethnicity.
 - 3) Repeals these provisions on January 1, 2024.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, while good progress on transfer has been made, the Legislature must continue to monitor the UC to ensure a straightforward transfer process is available to all students. This bill will result in more information to help the Legislature track the UC's efforts to strengthen and simplify transfer.
- 2) ***Clarification.*** This bill would require reporting on three distinct pathways for admission to the UC as a transfer student. These include the Associate Degree for Transfer, the Transfer Admissions Guarantee, and the UC Transfer Pathways. The bill requires that the UC separately report, for each of these, the number of students admitted and enrolled, and their average GPAs, as well as the admission and yield rates and the 2 or 3 year graduation rates for each of these distinct transfer alternatives.
- 3) ***Related activity.*** In December 2013, the President of the UC convened the Transfer Action Team (TAT) to review and recommend strategies to strengthen and streamline transfer between the California Community Colleges (CCC's) and the UC. In May 2014, the TAT issued its report, "Preparing California For Its Future: Enhancing Community College Student Transfer to UC," which included several recommendations, including, the need to streamline and strengthen the UC transfer preparation process, the need for UC to commit to working with CCC and California State University (CSU) to jointly engage in statewide strategic planning to improve the transfer pathway, present a united voice for higher education in Sacramento and with the California public, and increase the capacity of the segments to accommodate students.
- 4) ***Transfer options.***
 - a) *Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT).* SB 1440 (Padilla, Chapter 428, Statutes of 2010) creates the Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR) Act, which requires community colleges to create two-year 60 unit Associate Degree for Transfers (ADTs) that are fully transferable to CSU. Students who earn such a degree are automatically eligible to transfer to the CSU system as an upper-division student in a bachelor's degree program. Though these students are not guaranteed admission to a

particular California State University (CSU) campus or into a particular degree program, the legislation gives them priority admission to a CSU program that is "similar" to the student's California Community College (CCC) major or area of emphasis, as determined by the CSU campus to which the student is admitted. Once admitted, these students need only complete two additional years (an additional 60 units) of coursework to earn a bachelor's degree.

AB 2302 (Fong, Chapter 427, Statutes of 2010) authorized any community college student who met all the requirements for transfer established by SB 1440 to request that the University of California (UC) guarantee admission with junior status and to request the granting of priority admission to a program or major similar to his or her community college major or area of emphasis.

SB 440 (Padilla, Chapter 720, Statutes of 2013) expanded the provisions of the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act to require that CCCs create Associate Degree for Transfer (ADTs) in every major, and in areas of emphasis, and to require that the CSU accept these degrees, and develop an admissions redirection process for students who complete these degrees but are denied admission to the CSU campus to which they have applied. It also required the CCC and the CSU to establish a student-centered communication and marketing strategy to increase the visibility of the ADT pathway, as specified.

- b) *UC Transfer Pathways.* In July 2015, the UC announced its Transfer Pathways which outlined a single set of community college courses that prospective transfer students can take to prepare for 10 different majors at any of UC's nine undergraduate campuses. UC recently announced that an additional 11 Transfer Pathways were finalized providing academic roadmaps for the 21 most popular majors for transfer students. The Transfer Pathways cover two-thirds of all transfer admissions applications UC receives.

According to the UC, the Transfer Pathways are very similar to the Associate Degree for Transfer. Both provide lists of courses that prepare students for a major at UC or CSU. In general, the courses expected in the ADTs and the UC pathways for the same major are similar. In the sciences, however, the UC may require more preparation than the ADTs.

- c) *Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG).* Six UC campuses (Davis, Irvine, Merced, Riverside, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz) offer the transfer admission guarantee program for CCC students who meet specific requirements. Students participating in TAG will receive early review of their academic records, early admission notification, and specific guidance about major preparation and general education coursework.
- 5) ***Related report.*** The Campaign for College Opportunity recently published a report, *Keeping the Promise: Going the Distance in Transfer Reform* examining the implementation of the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) legislation. The

report notes that of the approximately 2.3 million students enrolled in the California Community Colleges system, only 4 percent (96,000 students) transferred to a four-year university in 2013-14. The report also noted the following:

- a) Latinos are better represented in the ADT earner population than they are in the general California State University (CSU) transfer population.
- b) Ninety two percent of ADT earners in the CSU system graduated or were still enrolled within two years after enrolling.
- c) ADT pathways are still not the primary transfer pathway in California, with only about eight percent of all CSU transfer students holding an Associate Degree for Transfer in 2014-15.
- d) Only 37 percent of Associate Degree for Transfer earners transferred to a CSU on the guaranteed pathway.
- e) Four CSU campuses enrolled 66 percent of all ADT students.

SUPPORT

Campaign for College Opportunity

OPPOSITION

None received.

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