

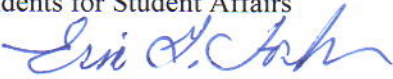
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MEMORANDUM

Coded: AA-2011-19

Date: October 21, 2011
To: CSU Provosts and Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs
CSU Vice Presidents for Student Affairs
From: Eric G. Forbes 
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student Academic Support
Subject: **Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (SB 1440)**

Senate Bill 1440 approved by the Governor and filed with the Secretary of State on September 29, 2010, adds Article 3 (commencing with Section 66745) to Chapter 9.2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education. The article authorizes the California Community Colleges to confer transfer associates degrees and requires the California State University to admit students completing transfer associates degrees to similar programs with junior standing. A copy of the article to add Section 89030.7 to the Education Code is attached for your reference.

The STAR Act creates the opportunity for a superlative and efficient pathway for transfer between the California Community Colleges and California State University campuses. In addition to the details specified under the new law, decisions agreed upon between the Chancellor of the California State University and the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and decisions approved by the SB 1440 Implementation and Oversight Committee (IOC) have established requirements and procedures to support students who transfer with these new transfer associates degrees.

The implementation of this law will benefit generations of Californians and will impact elements of the admissions, enrollment, academic advising, graduation and reporting processes for students completing a transfer associates degree and transferring to a CSU campus into a similar academic program. Attachments to this coded memorandum will be updated periodically as additional decisions are finalized by representatives of the two segments.

Questions concerning this item may be referred to Nathan Evans, Director of Enrollment Management Services at nevans@calstate.edu or (562) 951-4726.

EGF:nse

Attachments

c: Chancellor Charles B. Reed
Dr. Ephraim Smith, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Ron Vogel, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Mr. Nathan Evans, Director of Enrollment Management Services
Directors of Admissions and Records
State University Registrars
Directors of Outreach and Recruitment
Directors of Academic Advising
Directors of Institutional Research

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Background

The Student Transfer Agreement Reform Act (SB 1440 – Padilla), signed into legislation on September 29, 2010, enables the California Community Colleges (CCC) and California State University (CSU) to collaborate on the creation of Associate in Arts (AA-T) and Associate in Science (AS-T) degrees for transfer. This new law empowers the community colleges to grant an associate degree-for-transfer to students who have met specified general education and major requirements. Upon completion of this associate degree, the student is eligible for transfer with junior standing to the CSU system to a major or option within a major determined to be similar.

Students are guaranteed admission to the CSU system, and further are given priority consideration when applying to a particular CSU program that has been deemed similar to their CCC degree. Transfer associate degrees (AA-T/AS-T) deemed “similar” are aligned with the CSU degree majors, eliminating the need for AA-T/AS-T students to repeat courses taken at the community college. Students completing an AA-T/AS-T in a program which has been deemed similar to the CSU major or option within a major to which they have been admitted will be considered to have met all lower division general education and major preparation requirements for that major or option within the major unless a unique lower division requirement can be accommodated within the remaining 60 semester units.

Based on agreements reached between the Chancellors of the CSU and the CCC as well as the ongoing work of the Intersegmental Oversight Committee (IOC), a series of procedures has been developed to guide the implementation of the new degree programs and transfer pathway.

Similar Degrees

An AA-T/AS-T degree is “similar” to a CSU baccalaureate degree “when a specific CSU campus, by its processes, determines that a student so prepared can successfully complete the bachelor's degree within 60 additional units.” CSU discipline faculty have reviewed and identified the Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) which can be considered “similar” to the campus baccalaureate program in that discipline. To be considered in the admission, enrollment and graduation processes, students must complete an AA-T/AS-T degree which has been deemed similar at the CSU campus at which they plan to enroll.

During the 2011-12 academic year, the faculty of both segments will continue to develop and to approve TMCs with a goal to review the twenty-five academic majors with greatest enrollment. Data on similar degree determinations is being stored in the CSU Degrees Database. It is anticipated that extracts from this database may be used to support CSU Mentor and the ASSIST database in the future.

Applicant Identification

For spring and fall 2012 applicants, the CSU and CCC have developed a temporary applicant identification form which applicants can submit to the CSU campuses to which they have applied. The form will assist CSU admission offices identify applications which may be eligible to receive priority consideration for admission. The form is available online at www.calstate.edu/transfer.

For the 2012-13 academic year, a series of questions related to Transfer Associate Degrees has been added to the CSU Mentor undergraduate application. Applicants are asked to indicate the degree type, the CCC which will confer the AA-T/AS-T degree, the academic program in which the degree is earned, the date of the degree and the number units completed. As students are unfamiliar with this new opportunity,

campuses will likely need to communicate with applicants completing this section of the application and request verification in order to utilize this information in the admissions process.

Information which is provided by CSU Mentor should be considered self-reported data and subject to verification via an applicant identification form and/or an official transcript from the degree-granting community college which contains evidence of AA-T/AS-T completion or in-progress.

Modifications to the application staging tables within the Common Management System (CMS) allow campuses to identify applicants completing transfer associate degrees for priority processing and specific communications. Campuses are encouraged to follow their routine application and evaluation procedures while requesting verification of the planned degree for applicants whose admissions decision would be affected by this information.

Admission Eligibility

Campuses are reminded that transfer applicants must meet standard admission criteria in order to be regularly admissible to the CSU. Applicants must have 60 units of transfer work completed, have earned the grade of C or higher in the four basic skills areas, have completed 30 units of general education and have earned a GPA of 2.0 in all transferable course work attempted. While it is expected that most applicants completing an AA-T/AS-T will meet these stipulations, campuses are expected to follow routine practices in reviewing the entire academic record.

Admission Priority

As stipulated in California Education Code 66747, the CSU shall guarantee admission with junior standing to any community college student who earns the transfer associate degree. The law does not guarantee admission for specific majors or campuses; however, the CSU shall grant priority admission to a student's local CSU campus and to a program or major that has been deemed similar to his or her community college major or area of emphasis, as determined by the CSU campus where student has applied. A student admitted under this degree shall receive priority over all other community college transfer students, excluding 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 years.

CSU campuses have identified transfer associate degrees which are "similar" to baccalaureate programs on their respective campuses. Applicants who have completed an AA-T/AS-T in an academic program or option deemed similar by the CSU campus who meet admissions requirements must be admitted directly into the major or option determined similar and should not be admitted into a pre-major. As noted above, transfer applicants must meet standard admission criteria in order to be regularly admissible to the CSU, including a minimum GPA of 2.0 in all transferable course work attempted. Additional GPA points, indicated below, do not impact this 2.0 minimum for admissions eligibility.

Identification of an AA-T/AS-T degree as similar to a campus major or option within a major will afford specific priority consideration for impacted campuses and majors, as follows:

CSU Campus Admissions Impaction Status	Similar Degree Local Applicant	Similar Degree Non-Local Applicant
No Impaction	Priority Admission Min. 2.0 GPA (Ed. Code 66745)	
Campus Impacted	Priority Admission Min. 2.0 GPA (Ed. Code 66745)	Supplementary GPA Requirement Additional .20 GPA Point
Program Impacted <i>(Any CA Student)</i>	Supplementary GPA Requirement Additional .10 GPA Point <i>(20 seats or more)</i>	
Campus & Program Impacted <i>(Any CA Student)</i>	Supplementary GPA Requirement Additional .10 GPA Point <i>(20 seats or more)</i>	

Definition of “Local Admissions Area” for Transfer Associates Degrees

Campuses designated as impacted at the upper division level or campuses with programs designated as impacted should consider the transfer institution of origin awarding the AA-T/AS-T degree for the purpose of determining local admissions eligibility. For all other applicants, the institution of origin should be determined based upon the institution at which the upper division transfer applicants earned a majority of their college units.

Academic Programs Not Offered at Local CSU Campuses

Care should be exercised in providing access to programs that are not offered at the applicant’s local CSU campus. The most adjacent campuses were identified in impaction approval letters for 2012-2013. In keeping with the Board of Trustees policy on enrollment management, CSU campuses should be proactive in the consideration of students who might qualify as “local” for any programs not offered by the most adjacent CSU campus.

Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) Programs

Campuses may continue to develop TAG agreements with community colleges as a pathway for students to transfer. After 2014, however, students completing a TAG not affiliated with an AA-T/AS-T will have secondary priority in admission.

Supplemental Admissions Criteria

The SB 1440 IOC has agreed that the only permissible supplemental admission requirement for students who complete an AA-T/AS-T degree will be grade point average. Applicants completing AA-T/AS-T degrees who apply to academic programs deemed similar by the CSU campus will not be required to complete additional courses as supplemental admission requirements.

Auditions/Portfolios

Auditions and portfolios will not be required as supplemental admission criteria for applicants who have earned an AA-T/AS-T and are applying to a degree which has been deemed similar by the CSU campus. To date, no programs have been determined similar with these requirements.

Non-Residents & International Students

Non-resident applicants and international applicants completing an AA-T/AS-T degree are afforded the same admission, enrollment and graduation considerations outlined in this document; however, campuses are reminded of existing minimum eligibility requirements for these applicant populations as outlined in the CSU Admissions Handbook.

Admissions Basis and ERS Reporting

Revisions to the Enrollment Reporting System (ERS) Manual for 2011-2012 include new values reflecting degrees issued under SB 1440. Upper division transfer applicants, including non-resident and international applicants, who have completed a transfer associate degree deemed “similar” to the campus major, should be admitted using the admissions basis code of “P.”

CSU campuses without campus or program impaction should process applicants following existing evaluation practices for transfer applications. If an applicant will complete or has completed a transfer associate degree, this admissions basis should trump other upper division admission basis codes.

The completion of the AA-T/AS-T degree and the issuing community college should be appropriately recorded within the local student information system and reported through ERS. While traditional business practices may not have included recording associate degree completion, this data is required for the accurate reporting of SB 1440 outcomes. While recording of transfer associates degrees for applicants (AA-T or AS-T) is now a required value in ERS reporting, it is not necessary to report these degrees on CSU transcripts. Moreover, it is not necessary to record or to report CCC associates degrees not designed for transfer or associates degrees from private or out-of-state institutions.

Admission by Exception

Applicants who have successfully completed the AA-T/AS-T degree, but do not satisfy all requirements for CSU admissions eligibility may be considered for admission by exception. Decisions on such cases are entirely at the discretion of the local campus. An applicant who is admitted by exception and who has completed a transfer associate degree deemed “similar” to the campus major should be admitted using an “S” (or another appropriate) admissions basis code and have the completion of the AA-T/AS-T degree and the issuing community college recorded. Such students would satisfy all lower division general education and major preparation by virtue of the AA-T/AS-T degree and have the guarantee of the ability to complete the BA/BS degree within 60 semester (90 quarter) units.

Redirection of Applicants

Campuses designated as impacted at the upper division transfer level or with impacted programs should utilize the existing CSU application redirection functionality in CSU Mentor for applicants with AA-T/AS-T degrees who do not meet campus or program impaction GPA criteria. Students who hold AA-T or AS-T degrees are guaranteed admission to the CSU, therefore it is important to offer redirection to students as soon as a determination is made that the applicant will not meet campus selection.

Priority Registration at the CSU

Registration priority is not required at this time for any AA-T or AS-T transfer students.

Degree Audits/ Individual Education Plans

Students who successfully complete an AA-T/AS-T degree and transfer to a California State University campus in a similar major are guaranteed the ability to complete the BA/BS degree within 60 semester (90 quarter) units. In addition, students completing these degrees may not be required to complete additional lower division general education courses or lower division major preparation upon transfer unless a unique lower division requirement can be accommodated within the remaining 60 semester units.

Campuses are highly encouraged to develop processes to modify and “personalize” automated degree audits or specific advisement and graduation templates for students who have completed AA-T/AS-T degrees. After all completed coursework has been evaluated, lower division general education or lower division major requirements should be designated as completed as these were “met by the Transfer Associates Degree.” Degree audits or templates may include lower division major requirements not met by the Transfer Associates Degree which can be accommodated within the remaining 60 semester units.

Change of Major or Concentration

Students who completed an AA-T/AS-T, who elect to change their major or option to a program that has not been deemed similar to that transfer associates degree or who elect to add a second major or minor to a similar program, are no longer eligible for guaranteed completion of the degree in 60 semester units.

Course Completion Requirements

Students must pass courses attempted with appropriate grades for these courses to count toward the guarantee of 60 semester (90 quarter) units at the CSU. Repeated courses do not qualify as progress units.

Campus Graduation Requirements

Where possible, campus-specific and system-level graduation requirements should be incorporated into the remaining course requirements for the degree. However, proficiency assessments may continue to be required independently of courses. Certification of graduation writing proficiency may be required separately as this requirement constitutes a demonstration of expected proficiency. Students who do not successfully demonstrate proficiency may need to complete coursework beyond the 60 semester unit requirement. Further guidance regarding other graduation requirements was provided in an August 26, 2011 memorandum to CSU Provosts/Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs.