

SB 1440 – PADILLA
Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act

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Summary

SB 1440, The Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR) Act, would increase the number of students who successfully transfer from California Community Colleges (CCC) to the California State University system by establishing transfer degrees. Those who earn the new transfer degree would be guaranteed admission to the California State University (CSU) with junior status. Clarifying and streamlining the process would result in students graduating more quickly allowing community colleges and the CSU to serve more students.

Background

California's economy is directly dependent on our highly trained and educated workforce. Due to the impending retirement of a generation of baby boomers California faces a looming workforce shortage in job sectors requiring a bachelor's degree and above.

As many as 100,000 state employees will be eligible to retire in the next five years. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that 43% of the U.S. private labor force is also eligible to retire between 2004 and 2012.

In addition, eight of the top ten fastest growing occupations require postsecondary education and six require a bachelor's degree.

Since the adoption of the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education, preparing students to transfer to a four-year university has been a core function of the CCC system. In fact 73% of college students attend community colleges. However, only 25% of those who intend to transfer to four-year universities actually do.

A key barrier to student transfer is the inconsistent, duplicative and ever-changing coursework requirements that students face. These barriers frustrate and discourage students and add expense to students and inefficiency to the college system.

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A study by the CCC Chancellor's Office reports that the average transfer student completes 80 semester units of coursework when only 60 are required. The problem continues after they transfer. At the CSU, transfer students are taking excess units due to duplicative degree requirements and course credits that did not transfer from community college.

Arizona, Florida, North Carolina and Oregon have each created transfer degree programs that help students transfer seamlessly. As a result, more students successfully transfer to a 4-year university and earn a bachelor's degree in less time, allowing them to enter the job market more quickly. The money saved allows the higher education system to serve more students.

Existing Law

The coursework necessary to transfer to the CSU or the University of California can vary widely from campus to campus. Students seeking to transfer are frustrated and discouraged by conflicting and duplicative requirements. Students planning on applying to several CSU campuses for the same major may need to have completed different prerequisites to attend each institution. Many students are unable to effectively qualify for more than one transfer option.

Existing law does not require alignment between the CCC and universities. The resulting confusion surrounding transfer requirements delays degree attainment, increases costs, and reduces access for additional students seeking admission.

This Bill

The Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR) Act would do the following:

- Mandates that CCCs create AA degrees for transfer to a CSU with areas of emphasis.
- Guarantees that students who earn the transfer degree are admitted to the CSU with upper division junior status.
- Precludes CCCs from requiring additional courses for this degree.
- Assures that transfer students will graduate with a bachelor's degree with 120 semester units or 180 quarter units, with the exception of certain majors.

Support

Campaign for College Opportunity (Co-Sponsor)
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Co-Sponsor)
California State University (Co-Sponsor)
Student Senate for California Community Colleges (Co-Sponsor)
California Student Senate Association (Co-Sponsor)
A Place Called Home
Advancement Project
Alliance for a Better Community
Associated Students Incorporated
Bakersfield College
Bay Area Council
Cabrillo College
California Business for Education Excellence
California Business Roundtable
California Catholic Conference
California Chamber of Commerce
California Communities United Institute
California Postsecondary Education Commission
California State University, Monterey Bay
Californians for Justice
Central City Neighborhood Partners
Cerritos Community College District
Chicano Latino Intersegmental Convocation (CLIC)
Citrus College
City of Bell Gardens
Coastline Community College
College of Marin
College of the Canyons
College of the Desert
College of the Sequoias

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College OPTIONS
College Summit
Community Coalition
Community College League of California
Compton Community College District
Contra Costa Community College District
Diablo Valley College
Ed Voice
Education Trust West
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
Families in Schools
Gay-Straight Alliance Network
Girls, Inc. of Orange County
Glendale Community College
Glendora Chamber of Commerce
Governmental Solutions Group, LLC
GreenDot Public Schools
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
Hartnell College
Hispanas Organizing for Political Equality (HOPE)
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU)
Hispanic Scholarship Fund
Imperial Valley Community College District
InnerCity Struggle
Justice Matters
K-16 Bridge Program
Kern Community College District
Latin Business Association
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Long Beach City College
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Los Angeles Mission College
Los Angeles Unified School District
Los Rios Community College District
MiraCosta Community College
Mt. San Antonio College
California State National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Council of La Raza
North Bay Leadership Council
Orange County Business Council
Organization of Farmworker Women Leaders
Parents Investing for a Quality Education (PIQE)
Statewide
Pasadena City College
Pierce College
PolicyLink
Progressive Christians Uniting
Project Grad
Public Advocates
Rancho Santiago Community College District
Rio Hondo College
Riverside Community College District
San Bernardino Community College District
San Diego Community College District
San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Southern California College Access Network (SoCal CAN)
Southwestern College
Stanislaus County Office of Education
SunGard Higher Education
The Greenlining Institute
The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS)
The Women's Foundation of California
University of California
University of Southern California, Center for Enrollment Research, Policy and Practice
Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA)
West Valley Mission Community College District
Yosemite Community College District
Youth Policy Institute
Yuba Community College District

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