



# The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: November 16-17, 2015

SUBJECT: Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) Update		Item Number: 3.2	
		Attachment: Yes	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:		Consent/Routine	
	Pamela D. Walker, Vice Chancellor	First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:		Action	
		Information	X
		Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	

**ISSUE:** This item provides a status update on the implementation of Associate Degrees for Transfer as established by Senate Bill 1440 (Padilla, Statutes of 2010).

**BACKGROUND:** Senate Bill 1440, which went into effect on January 1, 2011, established the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (STAR) to streamline the transfer process between the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (CSU). The legislation called for the development of Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs) to provide clear statewide pathways that prepare students for transfer to CSU while also awarding a California community college associate degree. In addition, ADTs offer special benefits to community college students, including guaranteed admission to the CSU system with junior standing and eliminating the repeat of similar courses at the upper division level. By streamlining the transfer process, this initiative promises to fundamentally improve California higher education by making it more student-friendly and increasing institutional efficiency. *(Background contd.)*

**RECOMMENDATION:** This item is presented to the Board for information.

***(Background contd.)***

Since enactment of STAR, the CCC and CSU systems have collaborated closely to ensure the initiative's success. The Senate Bill 1440 Implementation and Oversight Committee, comprised of CSU and California community college administrators, faculty, students, and representatives from the CCC and CSU Chancellor's Offices, has met regularly since enactment of the legislation and worked to develop the necessary guidelines and policies for successful implementation. A central feature of the collaboration was the development a new process, designed and implemented by the CCC and CSU Academic Senates, which produces discipline-specific templates, called transfer model curricula (TMCs), that colleges can use to develop ADTs. Because TMCs are discussed and agreed upon by faculty on a statewide-level, the resulting articulation and pathways work to connect CSUs and California community colleges across the state.

In October 2013, Senate Bill 440 (Padilla) was signed into law, amending the STAR Act to clarify and expand the requirements of Senate Bill 1440. Specifically, SB 440 required that before the commencement of the 2015-16 academic year, that each California community college create an ADT for any major offered by that college in which there was also an approved TMC. Further, the bill specified that as TMCs are created in additional disciplines, California community colleges must develop corresponding ADTs within 18-months of the TMC's adoption.

**UPDATE:** Faculty from the CCC and the CSU systems have jointly developed TMCs for the ADTs in 32 disciplines. The colleges quickly responded and developed ADTs based on these TMCs. As of October 21, 2015, there are 1,973 ADTs offered at California community colleges. This extraordinary rate of implementation is a testament to the commitment at the state and local levels to expedite these new transfer degrees so that students could begin benefiting.

In 2011-12, the first year that the ADTs were offered at our campuses, 722 of the degrees were offered. That number quickly grew to 5,160 in 2012-13, then to 11,488 in 2013-14, and then to 20,644 in 2014-15. This rapid increase in students earning ADTs indicates that the new degrees appeal to students and offer them real value in helping students navigate the transfer process.

To date, 58 California community colleges have fully met the requirements of Senate Bill 440 and many colleges are one or two ADTs away from full compliance. Colleges that were unable to meet SB 440 requirements reported challenges in developing degrees for disciplines such as Computer Science and Music, which are difficult to complete within the 60-unit cap. Other colleges noted that delays in the approval of courses in the common Course Identification Numbering System (C-ID) had prevented them from developing ADTs. For colleges still developing ADTs, the Chancellor's Office Academic Affairs Division continues to provide technical assistance to ensure compliance with requirements established by Senate Bill 440.