



Some Questions and Answers about SB 1440
Associate Degrees for Transfer
August 1, 2012

1. Exactly what is the “guarantee” specifically for both CCCs and CSUs?

The legislation, the most recent LAO report, the “terms and conditions” information for the “Degree with a Guarantee” website, and Chancellor Jack Scott’s recent memo on the implementation, all provide a detailed summary of the various aspects of the guarantee.

A student who completes an Associate Degree for Transfer at a California Community College is guaranteed admission to the California State University, but not to any particular campus or program. To qualify, the student must be conferred an approved Associate Degree for Transfer (AA-T/AS-T) by a California Community College, apply for admission to California State University campuses for an open term by the published deadline, submit all requested transcripts and documents by published deadlines, meet CSU admission eligibility requirements for the program to which they have applied, and must comply with any other prescribed admission requirements. However, the only permissible supplemental admission requirement for students that complete an approved AA-T/AS-T degree will be GPA; they will not be required to take any additional courses as supplemental admission requirements.

Associate Degree for Transfer graduates who are admitted to a CSU program that has been deemed similar to the Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) for that discipline will be able to complete the Baccalaureate Degree in the similar option in the discipline within 60 semester or 90 quarter units as long as the student successfully completes each required course without repeating them or supplementing instruction with additional courses for minors or areas of emphasis. In order to finish the baccalaureate degree, students will also need to satisfy the CSU writing proficiency requirement. A few academic programs may require performance evaluations, auditions, portfolio reviews or set specific academic progress requirements to maintain enrollment in the program. To maintain the guarantee, continuous enrollment in the same academic major is required unless the student is on an approved leave of absence. After enrollment at a CSU campus begins, the guarantee is not transferable to another CSU campus.

At the CCCs, students earning AA-T or AS-T degrees are not held to local CCC graduation requirements and will not be required to repeat any coursework already successfully completed at a California community college.

2. Regarding redirection: How is the choice of CSU to which a student is redirected made? Does the student have options? Will the policy be published? Is the student redirected to the same concentration within the major (if appropriate)?

Within CSU Mentor, applicants who select impacted campuses and majors are already highly encouraged to apply to campuses and programs which are not impacted. A student who applies to multiple campuses will have more options.

Currently, redirection is a highly manual process handled by the CSU campus that is unable to offer admission to the applicant to an impacted major. The campus will redirect the application to another non-impacted CSU campus which still has capacity to enroll new students with consideration for campuses that have deemed the AA-T/AS-T degree similar and offers the same option/concentration. Given the variety of options and concentrations across CSU campuses, redirection to the same concentration will be preferred, but may not be available. CSU has proposed changes to the existing CSU Mentor features for redirection which could allow the applicant to participate in the redirection process; however those changes are proposals. Once finalized, this information will be available on CSU Mentor.

3. Will SB 1440 degree students receive priority registration at all or some CSU campuses?

No, neither community colleges nor CSU campuses will provide priority registration because of SB 1440. Local colleges and universities may *choose* to offer students earning AA-T and AS-T degrees priority registration due to local policies and practices.

4. The minimum GPA of 2.0 does not distinguish between residents and non-residents (2.4 required) or international students (2.8 required). What is the minimum GPA required?

Education Code §66746.a.2 requires only a minimum GPA of 2.0 in order for students to be eligible for transfer with an AA-T or AS-T. However, due to the competitive nature of admissions at the CSU, students are advised to earn as high a GPA as possible.

5. What will change in the spring admission process because of needing 60 units done in the summer prior to transfer? Will there be a separate process for the spring admits and conferring the degree?

CSU would accept Fall completion of the degree to satisfy spring admission; however campuses may stipulate that basic skills courses be completed by the end of summer. Receiving final transcripts with the degree posted may present issues for spring reporting and advisement which CSU will resolve. The process will be reviewed after the first cohort of spring admits in 2013.

6. How much leeway is there for the completion date of the AA-T? What if a student is admitted to CSU not as a 1440 student, and prior to CSU advising for the next term, the student completes an AA-T or AS-T, will the student still get the benefits of the degree? Will benefits be awarded backwards?

The degree could be completed up until first term of enrollment at CSU. As admission has already occurred, the only possible benefit would be reduction to what would be 60 units to finish program minus those completed. In some cases, this could still benefit the student; however in others, the student may have already enrolled in courses in the first term which would be outside the prescribed remaining 60 units. Each case would have to be individually reviewed.

7. The degree presumably is the ticket for entry and the only reason a CSU would need to “drill down” and examine the student’s actual course choices would be if the CSU has determined that there is some course that is critical and not guaranteed in the TMC that the student may have to take in the CSU’s 60, correct?

CSU campuses review transcripts for ALL college courses completed in order to adjust for repeats between campuses, check for substitutions & waivers, determine transfer grade point averages, and define prerequisites. Additionally, as students often alter career choices once they transfer, there could be additional need to individually review courses.

Because many TMC patterns allow great flexibility in the choice of courses, each CSU campus will continue to drill down on courses in order to develop the individual plan for the remaining 60 units. While it will be easy to identify that the lower division general education has been fulfilled in the degree audit, course by course modifications will be necessary to accurately present the major requirements and remaining units for the baccalaureate degree. Unfulfilled requirements may be identified as fulfilled by virtue of completing the Associate Degree for Transfer.