

ICW Statement on the General Education Component of Associate Degrees for Transfer

The Education Code implementing Senate Bill 1440 (Padilla, 2010) states the following (*emphasis added*):

66746. (a) Commencing with the fall term of the 2011-12 academic year, a student who earns an associate degree for transfer granted pursuant to subdivision (b) shall be deemed eligible for transfer into a California State University baccalaureate program when the student meets both of the following requirements:

(1) Completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:

(A) *The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.*

(B) A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.

(2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

(b) (1) As a condition of receipt of state apportionment funds, a community college district shall develop and grant associate degrees for transfer that meet the requirements of subdivision (a). A community college district shall not impose any requirements in addition to the requirements of this section, including any local college or district requirements, for a student to be eligible for the associate degree for transfer and subsequent admission to the California State University pursuant to Section 66747.

The implementation of SB 1440 has focused on the creation of Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs) that can be completed by a student at a California Community College in no more than 60 semester units, but there has been no expectation that all students will only take 60 units or that colleges would direct student course-taking patterns to ensure that units are minimized. The legislation clearly permits the student to complete one of the existing transfer general education patterns. Upon its formal incorporation into the IGETC Standards document, IGETC for STEM will exist as a recognized form of IGETC that may be used by students in specified ADT degrees and is provided as a means of enabling colleges to create degrees that conform to the degree limits imposed by SB 1440. The need to specify one transfer GE pattern as the means of completing the degree within 60 semester units does not prevent a college from awarding an ADT when a student chooses to use a different pattern – the legislation is explicit with respect to this being the student's choice. The college's obligation, at both the CCC and CSU level, is that it offers a pathway to degree completion that is consistent with the legislated limits. Individual students have the option of following pathways that may require more units.

Community colleges that are submitting degrees that can only be completed within 60 units if a specified pathways is taken should indicate how the degree

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CAN be completed in 60 units during the degree approval process at the CCCCOC, but they are in no way obligated or expected to limit students to pursuing the pathway that minimizes units.