

SB 440 (“Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act”-STAR)

- Introduced by Senator Padilla, and amended in the Senate May 24th, 2013, and in the Assembly September 3rd, 2013.

THE GOVERNOR HAS UNTIL OCTOBER 13TH TO EITHER VETO OR SIGN THIS BILL

An Extension of SB 1440

- This bill essentially is an effort to improve the conditions of SB 1440 by including other majors or areas of emphasis that aren’t already merited under this program.
 - According to the Chabot Newspaper, *The Spectator*, the bill would expand the provisions of the 2010 Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (STAR), requiring that California’s community colleges create associate transfer degrees in **every** major (by 2014-2014), and in areas of emphasis (by 2016-2017), as well as requiring that the California State University system accept these degrees, and **develop an admissions redirection process for students who complete these degrees yet are denied admission to the California State University campus for which they applied.**
 - The process is the same as SB-1440, only CSUs must create an admission redirection process for student who complete these degrees but are denied admission to the CSU campus they applied to.
 - It also requires California community colleges and CSUs to develop student-centered communication and marketing strategy in order to increase visibility of associate degree for transfer pathway for all students in California.
- consultants will be students, faculty, student services administrators, the State Department of Education, California Education Round Table, and other key stakeholders.
- The approved transfer curriculum, as prescribed, would thereby impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.
- In other words, should this bill be signed, California community colleges and California state universities must adhere to the added duties, that will then be paid for by the state, which comes from taxes.

On Senator Padilla’s Website

- In fall, 2012 more than 10,000 community college applicants identified themselves as being eligible for the associate degree for transfer, however, due to lack of available transfer degrees provided by their respective campuses, only 2,500 were granted by the California Community Colleges.

“Community college students deserve a clear and certain pathway to transfer. I want to make sure that students at every community college campus have the opportunity to earn a transfer degree that guarantees admission to a California State University with junior standing,” added Padilla.

“For California to meet the growing demand for skilled workers, we must dramatically improve the rate at which students transfer from community colleges and graduate from four-year universities”

<http://sd20.senate.ca.gov/news/2013-09-10-bill-strengthen-landmark-college-transfer-degree-law-headed-governor>

Core Values in Mind

- Since the enactment of the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education, preparing students to transfer to a four-year university has been a core function of the California Community Colleges.
- Successful and timely progression from lower division coursework to degree completion is a basic principle of California higher education and is critical to the future of the state's economy.

Student Centered Communication Pathway

(a) Outreach to high schools in accordance with existing high school outreach programs and activities performed by the colleges and universities.

(b) Information on the pathway prominently displayed in all community college counseling offices and transfer centers.

(c) Associate degree for transfer pathway information provided to all first-year community college students developing an education plan to aid them in making informed educational choices.

(d) Targeted outreach to first-year students through campus orientations and student support services programs offered by the campus that may include, but are not necessarily limited to, Federal TRIO Programs, First-Generation Experience, MESA, and Puente.

(e) Information on the pathway prominently displayed in community college course catalogs.

(f) Information on the pathway prominently displayed on the Internet Web sites of each community college, each campus of the California State University, and on the CaliforniaColleges.edu Internet Web site.

(G) Community colleges are encouraged to facilitate the acceptance of credits earned at other community colleges toward the associate degree for transfer pursuant to this section.

In the Years to Come

(A) Before the commencement of the 2015–16 academic year, a community college shall create an associate degree for transfer in the major and area of emphasis offered by that college for any approved transfer model curriculum finalized prior to the commencement of the 2013–14 academic year.

(B) A community college shall create an associate degree for transfer in every major and area of emphasis offered by that college for any approved transfer model curriculum approved subsequent to the commencement of the 2013–14 academic year within 18 months of the approval of the transfer model curriculum.

(C) Before the commencement of the 2015–16 academic year, there shall be the development of at least two transfer model curriculum in areas of emphasis and, before the commencement of the 2016–17 academic year, there shall be the development of at least two additional transfer model curriculum in areas of emphasis.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB440

