

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

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TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Academic Senate Presidents

FROM: Linda Michalowski, Vice Chancellor of Student Services
Jane Patton, Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges
Barry Russell, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: SB 1440 Update

As many of you know, SB 1440 (Padilla), is important legislation that will give students who earn an associate degree for transfer a direct route to upper division coursework at the CSU. In the process, it will increase the number of degrees granted and will directly affect college curriculum. The legislation has broad bipartisan support and is in the final stages of gaining approval by the legislature and the Governor. Given the likelihood of the bill's enactment, we felt it important to give some interim information about implementation and next steps.

We appreciate the enthusiasm of colleges to take advantage of the opportunities we will have to strengthen what we do for students through SB 1440. However, at this time, there is no need for you to take any action until further guidance is provided by the Chancellor's Office. There are academic and implementation questions that need to be worked out first. Our aim is to provide you with clear guidelines by early fall to ensure that all colleges are in compliance of the law by the required implementation date. The Chancellor's Office and the Academic Senate will work together to keep you posted and provide you with updates and guidelines as they become available.

The following are key issues that are currently being addressed in preparation for implementation of SB 1440:

1. This legislation provides us with an opportunity to clarify the most appropriate preparation for students who seek an associate degree while preparing for transfer. Our goal is to involve discipline faculty from the California State Universities (CSU) and California community colleges (CCC) to inform the development of CCC degrees that will appropriately prepare a student for a given major, regardless of their intended CSU destination. UC faculty will also be invited to participate as, ideally, these would be degrees that would meet the needs of all CSU-bound students and, if possible, UC campuses as well. (Education Code cannot mandate UC to make changes, unlike the state universities and community colleges).

We intend that changes will be made expeditiously, yet thoughtfully, to ensure that our students have the best preparation for success in upper division coursework. We suggest that local curriculum committees not make degree changes now but wait for clarifying guidelines from the Chancellor's Office.

2. SB 1440 Implementation Task Force

- a. We expect the bill will be signed in September.
- b. In anticipation, this month the Chancellor's Office will begin to identify members for an implementation committee. There will likely be various tasks, each requiring specialized experts at both the community colleges and the CSUs (e.g., discipline faculty, articulation officers, administrators, admissions officers and others.).
- c. As implementing guidelines and policies are developed, the Chancellor's Office will provide webinars, conference presentations, and disseminate this information through a variety of venues.

Future Questions

In an effort to provide as much support as possible, the Chancellor's Office and the Academic Senate will be working together to prepare a "Frequently Asked Questions" web page on the implementation of SB 1440. Please direct questions concerning any facet of this legislation to sb1440questions@cccoco.edu to help us gather all the questions in one place.

This is a very exciting moment in the history of the California community colleges. We will all work together to take advantage of this opportunity to create a better system of transfer for all students.