



# Importance of Local Associate Degrees

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# Overview of This Presentation

- ❖ Mission of CCCs
- ❖ Associate Degrees and General Education
- ❖ Associate Degrees for Transfer
- ❖ Associate CTE Degrees
- ❖ Implications of Guided Pathways
- ❖ Future of Local Associate Degrees

## The mission of the CCC (§66010.4) is to...

- 1) Offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division... **These institutions may grant the associate in arts and the associate in science degree.**
- 2) Achieve all of the following...
  - a) Remedial instruction for those in need of it...English as a second language, adult noncredit instruction, and support services...
  - b) Adult noncredit education curricula...
  - c) Community services courses and programs...
- 3) Advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous workforce improvement...
- 4) Conduct...institutional research concerning student learning and retention...

# CCC Associate Degrees

- ❖ The mission of the community colleges gives CCCs the right to grant associate degrees
- ❖ Colleges have been granting associate degrees for many years
- ❖ Associate degrees from CCCs have helped students get a job, a promotion, or helped them prepare for transfer to a four year university

# Requirements for Associate Degrees

- ❖ Defined in §55063 of Title 5
- ❖ Requires the completion of:
  - At least 18 semester or 27 quarter units of study must be taken in a single discipline or related disciplines
  - Completion of a general education pattern (local, CSU GE Breadth, IGETC)
  - 60 degree applicable units
  - Demonstrate competency in mathematics and written expression

# The relationship of ADTs to local degrees

- ❖ With the passage of SB 440, colleges are required to create an ADT in any area where they have an existing AA/AS degree and a TMC exists.
- ❖ However, it does not mandate (or even mention) getting rid of corresponding local degrees.

# Presenter examples

- ❖ Contract education
- ❖ Non-transfer vocational degrees
- ❖ Single-institution articulation (CSU, UC, and/or private or out-of-state)
- ❖ CTE local degrees that transfer

What about Guided Pathways?

How do local degrees align with Guided Pathways ?

- ❖ A collaborative, integrated, and intentional approach to ensuring students meet their educational goals in a timely manner.
- ❖ Faculty are in the Lead and the Core of Guided Pathways Work.
- ❖ Local decisions to ensure effectiveness in serving unique needs of your students.



# Key Elements of Guided Pathways

**Programs that are fully mapped out and aligned** with further education and career advancement while also providing structured or guided exploration for undecided students.



**Proactive academic and career advising** from the start through completion and/or transfer, with assigned point of contact at each stage.



**Early alert systems** aligned with interventions and resources to help students stay on the pathway, persist, and progress.



**Redesigning and integrating basic skills/developmental education classes** to accelerate students to college-level classes.



**Structured onboarding process**

including improved placement tests and co-requisite instruction that provide students with clear, actionable, and usable information they need to get to the right start in college.



**Instructional support and co-curricular activities** aligned with classroom learning and career interests.



# Discussion

- ❖ How does your college use local associate degrees (in light of SB1440)?



# Prerequisites and Pathways

- ❖ Additional requirements
  - Program prerequisites
  - Course prerequisites (including basic skills)
  - AB 705
- ❖ Sequencing
  - Requisite structure
  - Scheduling (sections, terms, overlap)
- ❖ Time (and units) to completion

# Local GE vs. CSU-GE/IGETC

- ❖ What's the need for GE patterns?
  - Why a degree and not a certificate?
  - What about out-of-state transfers?



# Discussion

**How does your local  
GE pattern compare  
with CSU GE/IGETC?**

**Do you allow all three  
for local degrees?**



# Possible disadvantages of having local degrees

- ❖ Confusion (“Which degree should I choose?”)
- ❖ Resource allocation (spread too thin)
- ❖ Unit bloat (without the 60-unit limitation, local degrees can become unwieldy)
- ❖ Others?

# Possible advantages of having local degrees

- ❖ Transfer customization
- ❖ Specialization and exploration
- ❖ CTE focus
- ❖ Emerging areas of study

# Possible advantages of having local degrees

- ❖ Defined objective not met by another award
  - Salary advancement, promotion
  - Contract, service area demand
  - Advisory committee recommendations not reflected in a TMC
  - Doesn't fit into ADT structure
- ❖ Others?



# Summary

- ❖ The ability to grant associate degrees is given to CCCs by education code
- ❖ Local associate degrees have been helping students for many years
- ❖ ADTs provide new opportunities to students, but may have deficiencies that can be met by local degrees.
- ❖ If a degree is meeting the needs of students, keep it!

Thank you!

Questions?