

**ASSEMBLY BILL****No. 2168****Introduced by Assembly Member Liu**

February 21, 2006

---

An act to amend Sections 66720 and 66739.5 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2168, as introduced, Liu. Public postsecondary education: common core curriculum.

(1) Existing law establishes the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in this state. These segments include the California State University, the campuses of which are administered by the Trustees of the California State University, the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, and the California Community Colleges, which is administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law establishes community college districts, which operate campuses that provide instruction to students throughout the state.

Existing law, known as the Donahoe Higher Education Act, sets forth the missions of the segments of postsecondary education. Provisions of the act are applicable to the University of California only to the extent that the regents act, by resolution, to make these provisions applicable. An existing provision of the act requires the governing bodies of the 3 public postsecondary segments, with appropriate consultation with the Academic Senates of the respective segments, to develop, maintain, and disseminate a common core curriculum in general education courses for the purposes of transfer. This provision requires that a person who has successfully completed the transfer core curriculum is to be deemed to have completed all

lower division general education requirements for the University of California and the California State University.

This bill would express findings and declarations of the Legislature with respect to the necessity for a single, common core curriculum of general education requirements between the University of California and the California State University. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that an integrated single common core curriculum be developed and maintained by the 3 public postsecondary segments in a manner that protects and perpetuates faculty responsibility in determining the contents of that curriculum.

This bill would require the board of governors and the trustees, and request the regents, in consultation with the Academic Senates and with student representatives of the respective segments, to jointly develop, maintain, and disseminate a single common core curriculum for the purposes of transfer on or before June 1, 2008.

(2) Existing law establishes a program with the purpose of ensuring that community college students who wish to earn baccalaureate degrees at a campus of the California State University are able to do so. Existing law requires the Chancellor of the California State University to carry out specified tasks in connection with the establishment of this program.

Existing law requires the Chancellor of the California State University to establish admissions requirements for community college transfer students in accordance with specified criteria. Existing law requires the Chancellor of the California State University, in consultation with the Academic Senate of the California State University and with the faculty responsible for each high-demand baccalaureate degree major program, to specify for each high-demand baccalaureate program major a systemwide lower division transfer curriculum. This provision declares that it is not to be construed to limit in any way the ability of students to gain admission through alternative paths to transfer, such as the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

This bill would add the single common core curriculum to be developed, maintained, and disseminated on or before June 1, 2008, pursuant to this bill to the list of alternative paths to transfer in this provision.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (1) Students and families who choose the California  
4 Community Colleges, as an excellent and affordable lower  
5 division path to a high-quality four-year degree, face a tangled  
6 maze of degree requirements and general education patterns.

7 (2) The transfer function is one of the most cost-effective  
8 aspects of postsecondary education in California; its  
9 effectiveness is a critical matter for the prudent use of resources  
10 and for providing a clear path to each person's educational goals.

11 (3) Simplicity brings clarity for students and families. Students  
12 should be able to keep their options open to compete for the best  
13 they can achieve in a fair admissions process or be able to  
14 arrange a transfer admission guarantee to a specific campus if  
15 preferred.

16 (4) A single, common core curriculum of general education  
17 requirements between the University of California (UC) and the  
18 California State University (CSU) is necessary for an  
19 understandable set of requirements, and can be accomplished, as  
20 it was in the agreements related to the high school "A-G" pattern,  
21 through consultation, accommodation, and professionalism.

22 (5) Simplicity should not be imposed on academic content.  
23 California's renowned academic excellence and academic  
24 freedom are protected only when curriculum is solely within the  
25 purview of faculty, who are in a position to determine the skills  
26 and bodies of knowledge that should be required in a general  
27 education pattern. Additionally, agreement upon curricula is not  
28 a one-time project. It is an ongoing regular responsibility of the  
29 segments--an evolving process that must reflect the most current  
30 content or California will suffer from stagnant education.

31 (6) While it is important that general education requirements  
32 not differ between UC and CSU, it is acceptable and valuable for  
33 there to be variations by discipline; for example, for those  
34 preparing in the sciences, so that students may maximize the  
35 value of their lower-division preparation as it relates to their  
36 eventual educational goals.

37 (b) Thus, it is the intent of the Legislature that an integrated  
38 single common core curriculum be developed and maintained by

1 UC, CSU, and the California Community Colleges in a manner  
 2 that protects and perpetuates faculty responsibility in determining  
 3 the contents of that curriculum.

4 SEC. 2. Section 66720 of the Education Code is amended to  
 5 read:

6 66720. ~~The~~ (a) *On or before June 1, 2008, the Board of*  
 7 *Governors of the California Community Colleges, the Regents of*  
 8 ~~the University of California~~, *and the Trustees of the California*  
 9 *State University shall, and the Regents of the University of*  
 10 *California are requested to, with appropriate consultation with*  
 11 *the approval of the Academic Senates of the respective segments,*  
 12 ~~shall~~ *and appropriate consultation with student representatives*  
 13 *of the respective segments, jointly develop, maintain, and*  
 14 *disseminate a single common core curriculum in general*  
 15 *education courses for the purposes of transfer. The single*  
 16 *common core curriculum developed, maintained, and*  
 17 *disseminated pursuant to this section may contain variations by*  
 18 *academic discipline, but not by segment.* ~~Any~~

19 (b) *Any person who has successfully completed the transfer*  
 20 *core curriculum; shall be deemed to have thereby completed all*  
 21 *lower division general education requirements for the University*  
 22 *of California and the California State University. The single*  
 23 *common core curriculum developed pursuant to this section shall*  
 24 *be utilized as the general education component in all transfer*  
 25 *agreement programs.*

26 SEC. 3. Section 66739.5 of the Education Code is amended to  
 27 read:

28 66739.5. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
 29 following:

30 (1) The California Master Plan and supporting statutes place  
 31 utmost importance on the effective transfer of community college  
 32 students to the University of California (UC) and the California  
 33 State University (CSU) as a means of providing access to the  
 34 baccalaureate degree.

35 (2) In 2002, CSU enrolled 55,000 transfer students from  
 36 community colleges.

37 (3) Two out of three students who earn CSU baccalaureate  
 38 degrees begin in a community college.

1 (4) Effective use of state and student time and resources would  
2 be maximized by students accruing fewer unrequired units in  
3 earning their degrees.

4 (5) Additional access to community colleges and CSU will be  
5 created by higher graduation rates and fewer nonessential units  
6 taken.

7 (6) The state budget situation makes it urgent to streamline the  
8 path of the transfer student to the baccalaureate degree.

9 (b) It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature to ensure that  
10 community college students who wish to earn the baccalaureate  
11 degree at CSU are provided with a clear and effective path to this  
12 degree.

13 (c) This section shall not be construed to limit in any way the  
14 ability of students to gain admission through alternative paths to  
15 transfer, such as the Intersegmental General Education Transfer  
16 Curriculum (IGETC)–or, the California State University General  
17 Education-Breadth Requirements, *or the single common core*  
18 *curriculum, which shall be developed, maintained, and*  
19 *disseminated pursuant to Section 66720 on or before June 1,*  
20 *2008.*

21 (d) On or before February 1, 2005, the Chancellor of CSU  
22 shall establish transfer student admissions requirements that give  
23 highest priority to transfer students who are qualified in  
24 accordance with subdivision (f) and paragraph (3) of subdivision  
25 (g).

26 (e) (1) CSU campuses admitting students qualified in  
27 accordance with subdivision (f) and paragraph (3) of subdivision  
28 (g) will make it possible for these students to complete their  
29 baccalaureate degree in the minimum number of remaining units  
30 required for that degree major.

31 (2) For purposes of this subdivision, the “minimum number of  
32 remaining units” is the minimum number of units required for a  
33 degree major after subtracting the number of fully  
34 degree-transferable units earned at the community college.

35 (f) The Chancellor of CSU, in consultation with the Academic  
36 Senate of CSU, shall establish the following components  
37 necessary for a clear degree path for transfer students:

38 (1) On or before June 1, 2005, the Chancellor of CSU, in  
39 consultation with the Academic Senate of CSU and with the  
40 faculty responsible for each high-demand baccalaureate degree

1 major program, shall specify for each high-demand baccalaureate  
2 program major a systemwide lower division transfer curriculum  
3 composed of at least 45 semester course units, or the quarter-unit  
4 equivalent, that will be common across all CSU campuses  
5 offering specific major programs.

6 (2) (A) The systemwide lower division transfer curriculum for  
7 each high-demand baccalaureate degree major program shall be  
8 composed of at least 45 semester units, or the quarter-unit  
9 equivalent, and shall include all of the following:

10 (i) General education courses.

11 (ii) Any other lower division courses required for graduation.

12 (iii) Lower division components of the student's declared  
13 major.

14 (iv) Elective units, as appropriate.

15 (B) The coursework described in subparagraph (A) shall be  
16 designated by the CSU faculty responsible for the student's  
17 major degree program.

18 (3) The systemwide lower division transfer curriculum shall be  
19 specified in sufficient manner and detail so that existing and  
20 future community college lower division courses may be  
21 articulated, according to the usual procedures, to the  
22 corresponding CSU courses or course descriptions.

23 (g) (1) On or before June 1, 2006, the Chancellor of CSU and  
24 the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, in  
25 consultation with the Academic Senate of the California  
26 Community Colleges, shall articulate those lower division,  
27 baccalaureate-level courses at each campus of the California  
28 Community Colleges that meet for each degree major the  
29 systemwide lower division transfer curriculum requirements  
30 specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (f).

31 (2) To the extent that the goals of efficiency and urgency are  
32 advanced, existing articulation procedures such as the California  
33 Articulation Number (CAN) program shall be employed.

34 (3) On or before June 1, 2006, each CSU campus shall have  
35 identified any additional specific, nonelective course  
36 requirements beyond the systemwide lower division transfer  
37 curriculum requirements for each major, up to a maximum of 60  
38 semester units or the quarter-unit equivalent, for the systemwide  
39 and campus-specific requirements combined. To the extent these

1 additional course requirements are identified, each CSU campus  
2 shall provide that information to all community colleges.

3 (4) The Chancellor of CSU shall amend CSU's transfer  
4 admissions procedures to encourage prospective community  
5 college transfer students to identify and, to the extent possible,  
6 commit to, a specific CSU transfer destination campus before  
7 earning more than 45 semester units, or the quarter-unit  
8 equivalent, of lower division, baccalaureate-level courses, as  
9 described in subdivision (f).

10 (h) As allowed by enrollment demand and available space,  
11 each CSU campus shall develop a transfer admission agreement  
12 with each student who intends to meet the requirements of this  
13 section, including the declaration of a major and identification of  
14 a choice of a destination campus, before earning more than 45  
15 systemwide semester units, or the quarter-unit equivalent. The  
16 transfer admission agreement shall guarantee admission to the  
17 campus and major identified in that agreement and transfer of all  
18 60 semester units, or the quarter-unit equivalent, as creditable to  
19 the baccalaureate degree, subject to the student's meeting the  
20 following conditions:

21 (1) Completion of the 60 semester units of college-level  
22 coursework, or the quarter-unit equivalent, specified for the  
23 student's major degree program.

24 (2) Declaration of a major.

25 (3) Satisfactory completion of the systemwide lower division  
26 transfer curriculum requirements for the student's declared  
27 major.

28 (4) Satisfactory completion of any requirements beyond the  
29 systemwide lower division transfer curriculum that are specified  
30 by the CSU destination campus.

31 (5) Any impaction criteria for that campus or major.

32 (i) A CSU campus shall guarantee that the transfer students  
33 admitted under this section will be able to complete the  
34 baccalaureate degree in the minimum number of course units  
35 required for that degree.