

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 2, 2009  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2009  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 16, 2009  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 440**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Beall**  
(Principal coauthor: Senator Padilla)  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Block, Chesbro, Coto, De Leon,**  
**and Fong Eng, Fong, Swanson, and Torrico)**

February 24, 2009

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An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 66745) to Chapter 9.2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 440, as amended, Beall. California Community Colleges: student transfer.

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 are administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, and authorizes them to provide instruction to students at community college campuses.

Existing law, known as the Donahoe Higher Education Act, authorizes the community colleges to grant associate in arts and associate in science degrees. The act also requires the regents, the trustees, and the board of governors to have as a fundamental policy the maintenance of a healthy and expanded program to increase the number of transfer students from community colleges.

This bill would enact the ~~College Student Success Associate Degree and Recognition of Student Transfer Preparation Act~~, which would authorize a community college ~~district~~ to grant an associate ~~in arts~~ degree in ~~transfer studies or an equivalent program~~ *the student's field of study, that is designated as being "for transfer,"* to a student ~~meeting specified requirements~~ *who completes 60 transferable semester units or 27 quarter units, as specified, and meets the minimum requirements for transfer to a public university or alternative path to transfer program. The bill would prohibit a community college district from imposing any requirements, in addition to these requirements, for the granting of an associate degree with the "for transfer" designation.*

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Since the enactment of the Master Plan for Higher Education
- 4 in 1960, preparing students to transfer to a four-year university
- 5 has been a core function of the California Community Colleges.
- 6 (b) Successful progression from lower division coursework to
- 7 degree completion is a basic principle of California higher
- 8 education and is critical to the future of the state's economy.
- 9 (c) Currently, the coursework necessary to transfer to a campus
- 10 of the California State University or the University of California
- 11 differs from the coursework needed to earn an associate degree.
- 12 As a result, many transfer students leave the community college
- 13 system having completed transfer requirements, but are unable to
- 14 participate in community college graduation ceremonies, do not
- 15 have a degree to show for their work, and are ineligible for some
- 16 awards and scholarships because they did not fulfill current
- 17 requirements for an associate degree.

1 (d) Today, one in every four jobs requires an associate degree  
2 or higher. In the near future, one in every three jobs will require  
3 an associate degree or higher.

4 (e) The community college system allows the state to address  
5 the serious shortage of educated workers.

6 (f) To meet workforce demands in a cost-effective way, ~~a~~  
7 ~~transfer studies associate degree program provides increased~~  
8 ~~educational opportunities for Californians throughout the state~~  
9 ~~who might not otherwise earn a baccalaureate degree because of~~  
10 ~~interruptions in their education. incentivizing students to earn an~~  
11 ~~associate degree while preparing for transfer to a four-year college~~  
12 ~~or university, and recognizing that they have completed a transfer~~  
13 ~~preparation course pattern, provides students encouragement and~~  
14 ~~support to complete their overall educational pursuits.~~

15 ~~(g) In the current difficult fiscal times, increasing student success~~  
16 ~~will have long-term benefits for California's economy.~~

17 ~~(h) A transfer studies associate degree program is a manageable~~  
18 ~~reform in an otherwise bleak economic climate.~~

19 SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 66745) is added  
20 to Chapter 9.2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education  
21 Code, to read:

22  
23 ~~Article 3. Transfer Studies Program Associate Degree and~~  
24 ~~Recognition of Student Transfer Preparation~~  
25

26 66745. ~~This act~~ (a) *This article shall be known, and may be*  
27 *cited, as the ~~College Student Success Act. Community College~~*  
28 *Associate Degree and Recognition of Student Transfer Preparation*  
29 *Act.*

30 (b) *It is the intent of the Legislature that, whenever possible, a*  
31 *community college shall consider the requirements for transfer as*  
32 *it develops associate degree requirements and encourages students*  
33 *to take courses that simultaneously meet both of the requirements*  
34 *of Section 66746.*

35 66746. A community college ~~district~~ may grant an associate  
36 ~~in arts degree in transfer studies or an associate in arts degree in~~  
37 ~~an equivalent program to a student meeting both of the following~~  
38 ~~requirements:~~

39 (a) ~~Completes a minimum of 60 semester units.~~

1 ~~(b) Meets the minimum requirements for transfer to a campus~~  
 2 ~~of the California State University or the University of California.~~  
 3 *degree, in the student's field of study, on which is designated that*  
 4 *it is "for transfer," to a student who meets both of the following*  
 5 *requirements:*

6 *(a) Completes a minimum of 60 transferable semester units or*  
 7 *90 quarter units, 18 semester units or 27 quarter units of which*  
 8 *shall comprise coursework in a major or an area of emphasis, as*  
 9 *determined by the college.*

10 *(b) Meets the minimum requirements for transfer in an approved*  
 11 *transfer core curriculum program, approved transfer agreement*  
 12 *program, or dual admission program, implemented pursuant to*  
 13 *Chapter 9.2 (commencing with Section 66720) of Part 40 of Title*  
 14 *3 or meets the requirements of an alternative path to transfer*  
 15 *program, including, but not limited to, the Intersegmental General*  
 16 *Education Transfer Curriculum or the California State University*  
 17 *General Education Breadth Requirements.*

18 *66747. If a community college provides a degree with the "for*  
 19 *transfer" designation as provided for in Section 66746, the college*  
 20 *shall not impose any requirements in addition to the requirements*  
 21 *of Section 66746, including any local college or district*  
 22 *requirements.*

23 ~~66747.~~

24 *66748. (a) A degree granted pursuant to this article shall*  
 25 *recognize reflect the completion of lower division general*  
 26 *education requirements.*

27 ~~(b) A degree granted~~ *The granting of a degree pursuant to this*  
 28 *article does not guarantee admission to any institution.*