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COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPDATE

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

State Auditor Report on CCC Transfers



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Earlier this fall, the California State Auditor released a [report](#) on the state's public higher education systems' efforts to improve the rate of California Community Colleges (CCC) transfers to the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) systems.

The audit found that only about one in five students who began community college from 2017 to 2019 and intended to transfer did so within four years, with lower transfer rates for students from certain regions and demographic backgrounds. The report found that the vast majority of students who did not transfer never reached the point of applying to the four-year university systems primarily because they had not secured enough units for transfer.

To improve transfer rates, the report provides recommendations to the three systems. The recommendations for the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) are as follows:

- Establish by September 2025 a goal transfer rate and a process for measuring and reporting that rate as it applies to the statewide system and to individual community colleges
- Establish a process by September 2025 for identifying any specific best practices at community colleges that have had a measurable impact on the colleges' transfer rates and sharing these practices with all colleges
- The three systems should collaborate by September 2026 to analyze articulation data and develop a plan for addressing the gaps in articulation that most negatively affect community college students

- Document a process by September 2025 for requesting and analyzing specific rationales from community colleges that have decided not to offer the associate degree for transfer (ADT) for a particular transfer model curriculum
- Disseminate guidance to community college districts (CCDs) by September 2025 that includes the following:
 - Specific actions that CCDs should take to ensure that as many transfer-intending students as possible receive counseling and have a current, comprehensive education plan
 - Guidance about the format and content of education plans, including how CCDs can ensure that the plans are accessible online and contain a student's potential transfer destinations
- Develop a method by September 2026 for community colleges to monitor and report the percentage of their transfer-intending students who have a current, comprehensive education plan and the percentage who have received timely counseling services
- Establish a process by September 2025 for identifying community colleges with staffing levels that are insufficient to provide necessary transfer-related guidance and taking follow-up action when warranted
- Update its equity plan template or its related equity plan annual report template by September 2025 to require colleges to report outcomes related to their established goals
- The three systems should establish formal agreements by September 2025 to share information for outreach and recruitment purposes about transfer-intending students in a manner permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and any other applicable privacy laws

In addition to providing recommendations to the CCCCO, the report also provides the following three recommendations for the Legislature:

- To help create transfer pathways for students in majors that require a large number of units, the Legislature should amend state law to allow certain transfer model curricula for the ADT, such as in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, to exceed the existing lower-division 60-unit requirement, if both the CCC and CSU systems agree
- To ensure that community college students can centrally access the information they need to prepare for transfer, the Legislature should require all CSU campuses—and should request all UC campuses—to publish their existing articulation agreements and transfer requirements on ASSIST rather than only on their own external websites

- To ensure that the CSU, UC, and CCC continue to make progress on streamlining transfer requirements for students, the Legislature should consider appropriating funding and requiring annual status reporting for the following efforts:
 - Developing or revising transfer model curricula and expanding the ADT's use
 - Aligning CSU and UC transfer requirements
 - Identifying and reducing barriers to further articulation between community college courses and CSU and UC transfer requirements

With the release of this audit report, it would not be surprising to see the Legislature and three systems prioritize transfer processes changes. This is an issue we will be watching for next month when Governor Gavin Newsom releases his 2025-26 State Budget proposal and when the Legislature returns to Sacramento.