Associate Degree for Transfer Placement Requirement (AB 928)

Spring 2024

Due: August 1, 2024 for all Fall 2024 Applicants and continuing students who select an educational goal of A - "obtain an Associate Degree and transfer to a four-year institution."

Background

The California Community Colleges Chancellors sent a memo, September 25, 2023 Guidance for Implementing the New Associate Degree for Transfer Placement Requirement. The memo provides the following background: *In 2010,the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act established a guaranteed transfer pathway to California State University system for California community college students who earn an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT). Assembly Bill 928 (Berman, 2021) amended Education Code by adding Section 66749.8, the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021, that directs the California Community Colleges "on or before August 1, 2024, where ADTs for major pathways exist, the California Community Colleges shall place students on the ADT pathway if students declare a goal of transfer on their mandatory education plans". This new procedure is intended "to maximize the probability that students will transfer into a four-year postsecondary educational institution and earn a degree in their chosen field of study in a timely manner, and to minimize the accrual of excess units."*

Title 5, § 55530 requires that all students have a Student Education Plan (SEP) on file no later than the time when 15 units have been earned. A hold may be placed on the student's record and registration priority may be conditional upon completion of this and other matriculation services (§ 58108).

Findings:

The statutory start date of "on or before August 1, 2024" indicates the expectation that newly enrolled students without a student education plan (SEP) are most affected. Students who change their educational goal to transfer on or after August 1, 2024 may also be required to auto-enroll into an ADT pathway if they do not qualify for an exception.

As part of the matriculation process students must visit with a counselor at least once and develop some version of a SEP.

Discussion and decisions about these logistics would most likely need to include representatives from student services, information technology, research, and leadership. When self-evaluating for automation, consider:
How to program to facilitate this mandate?
Is there a common SIS to SEP transition point to leverage?
How to crosswalk to prioritize the ADTs?
How to build in needed checks to monitor and notify students when off-track?
What are the configuration needs?
What historical student information will be maintained and managed?

Requirements	Implementation Decisions

1. Presenting the ADT's in CCCApply
Colleges are expected to require students to select an ADT major if their educational goal is A.
 	
• Colleges may filter major selection for students who select an educational goal of A at the time of application to only ADT majors.
• If a local degree and ADT are available in the same/similar major, ensure the major title is distinctive between the local and ADT. For example, Biology Associate in Science vs Biology Associate in Science for Transfer.
	CCC Apply will be adding a filter to their application for Spring 2024 colleges can do the following when student selects goal "A".
	
	A. Use the filter to only display Associate Degree's for transfer
	   a. This would trigger compliance, but students would not be able to see local degrees that do not have an ADT pathway.
	B. Display all majors with current naming convention
	   a. Shifts responsibility to college personnel and counseling to develop educational plan and verify students eligibility for exception
	C. Display all majors and update the naming convention in the major description to include the award type at the front
	   a. this would show ADT's at the top
	   b. shifts responsibility to college personnel and counseling to develop educational plan and verify students eligibility for exception
	
	The filter will not be available by the time the application opens. A process must be developed to reach out to students who apply early for Fall 2024.
	
	Questions:
	Will GCCCD limit the student viewing options?
	If not, how will majors be listed?

2. Developing the student education plan. The memo clarifies "...if a transfer student identifies a program of student in which there is a current Associate Degree for Transfer available then the college is obligated to place the student on that pathway via the student's education plan." Colleges are permitted to automate the assignment of an ADT major to assist with the subsequent development of a comprehensive education plan with a counselor.	Questions: **How will the colleges monitor Applicants who select educational goal of A?** **Notification to students to contact counseling?** **Place a hold on student record if education plan not completed by 15 units?** **Remove registration priority if education plan not completed by 15 units?**

	We must consider and mitigate Counseling impact/responsibilities.
3. Handling the Exceptions Student education plans must be identified as Associate Degree for Transfer, unless one of the statutory exceptions is noted. 1. an ADT pathway does not exist in the chosen major at the college. 2. the student's educational pathway is better served by a local associate degree. 3. the student plans to apply to transfer to a UC campus or an independent college or university. 4. the student is seeking to complete a community college baccalaureate degree program. 5. the student is seeking to complete a career technical education program that does not have an ADT pathway. Statutory exemptions should contain an 'opt out' procedure and how it can be automated to be easily selected by students and documents for future reporting/auditing.	**Questions:** **How will exceptions be identified in Colleague?** **How will students opt out?**

Colleges are expected to update websites, facilitate professional development activities for relevant faculty and staff, and all process all relevant programming and procedures to be compliant by August 1, 2024.