

Date of Hearing: April 19, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 2137 (Santiago) – As Amended March 28, 2016

SUBJECT: Postsecondary education: University of California: student transfers.

SUMMARY: Requests the University of California (UC) Regents to submit annual reports, on or before March 1 in each year from 2017 to 2020, inclusive, relating to California Community Colleges (CCC) students' transfers to the UC. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requests the UC Regents to submit both of the following:
 - a) An annual report to the Legislature, submitted on or before March 1 in each year from 2017 to 2020, inclusive, on the implementation of the recommendations of the Transfer Action Team convened by the UC President in December 2013; and,
 - b) An annual report to the Legislature, submitted on or before March 1 in each year from 2017 to 2022, inclusive, on all of the following:
 - i) The number of students with an associate degree for transfer (AD/T) who were granted admission to the UC, along with the average community college grade point average (GPA) of these students, broken down by UC campus;
 - ii) The number of students with an AD/T who were denied admission to the UC, along with the average community college GPA of these students, broken down by UC campus;
 - iii) The number of students described in clause (i) who enrolled at a UC campus, and the number who graduated from the UC within two or three academic years for the cohort graduating in the year of the report, broken down by UC campus;
 - iv) The number of students who used the transfer pathway framework and who were granted admission to the UC, along with the average community college GPA of these students, broken down by UC campus;
 - v) The number of students who used the transfer pathway framework and who were denied admission to the UC, along with the average community college GPA of these students, broken down by UC campus;
 - vi) The number of students described in clause (iv) who enrolled at a UC campus, and the number who graduated from the UC within two or three academic years for the cohort graduating in the year of the report, broken down by UC campus;
 - vii) The number of students who used the transfer admission guarantee and who were granted admission to the UC, along with the average community college GPA of these students, broken down by UC campus;

- viii) The number of students who used the transfer admission guarantee and who were denied admission to the UC, along with the average community college GPA of these students, broken down by UC campus; and,
 - ix) The number of students described in clause (vii) who enrolled at a UC campus, and the number who graduated from the UC within two or three academic years for the cohort graduating in the year of the report, broken down by UC campus.
- 2) Specifies that this section shall be repealed on January 1, 2024, as specified.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes various conditions, responsibilities, and declarations around admission at the UC and California State University (CSU). Among these are declarations of the Legislature's intent for admission priority (generally prioritizing admission of transfer students) and that the CSU and UC maintain a student body comprised of 60 percent upper division and 40 percent lower division students (Education Code (EC) Sections 66201-66207).
- 2) Establishes a variety of requirements for the UC in regard to articulation of major preparation courses, transfer agreements, and transfer pathways (EC Section 66721.7).
- 3) Establishes a variety of requirements regarding lower division transfer curriculum requirements, transfer admission procedures and transfer admission agreements for the CSU in order to ensure a clear degree path for transfer students (EC Section 66739.5).
- 4) Requires each department, school, and major of the UC and CSU to establish discipline specific articulation and transfer program agreements for majors with lower division prerequisites and establishes a number of related reporting and other requirements (EC Section 66740, et seq.).
- 5) Requires CCC districts to develop and grant a transfer associate degree that deems the student eligible for transfer into the CSU, when the student meets specified course requirements (EC Section 66746).
- 6) Requires the CSU to guarantee admission with junior status to any community college student who meets specified requirements, but provides that the student is not guaranteed admission for specific majors or campuses. However, the CSU is required to grant a student priority admission to his or her local CSU campus and to a program or major that is similar to his or her community college major or area of emphasis, as determined by the CSU campus to which the student is admitted. Students that utilize the associate transfer degree process are required to receive priority over all other community college transfer students, except for community college students who have entered into a transfer agreement between a community college and the CSU prior to the fall term of the 2012-13 academic year (EC Section 66747).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown**COMMENTS:** *Background.* For the last several decades, CCC students have faced and experienced significant challenges to being able to transfer into the CSU or UC. Out of concern for the myriad of issues CCC students faced when attempting to transfer, the Legislature enacted

SB 1440 (Padilla), Chapter 428, Statutes of 2010; AB 2302 (Fong), Chapter 427, Statutes of 2010; and, SB 440 (Padilla), Chapter 720, Statutes of 2013.

Senate Bill 1440 creates the Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR) Act, which requires community colleges to create two-year 60 unit AD/Ts that are fully transferable to CSU. These degrees require completion of: (1) a minimum of 18 units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by each community college; and, (2) an approved set of general education requirements. Students who earn such a degree are automatically eligible to transfer to the CSU system as an upper-division student in a bachelor's degree program. Though these students are not guaranteed admission to a particular CSU campus or into a particular degree program, SB 1440 gives them priority admission to a CSU program that is "similar" to the student's CCC major or area of emphasis, as determined by the CSU campus to which the student is admitted. Once admitted, SB 1440 students need only complete two additional years (an additional 60 units) of coursework to earn a bachelor's degree.

Assembly Bill 2302 stipulates that: (1) any community college student who meets all the requirements for transfer established by SB1440 can request that the UC guarantee admission with junior status; and, (2) requests that the UC, notwithstanding existing laws relating to admission and categories of admission priority, grant priority admission to a program or major similar to his or her community college major or area of emphasis.

Senate Bill 440 expands the provisions of the STAR Act to require that CCC create AD/Ts in every major, and in areas of emphasis, and require that the CSU accept these degrees, and develop an admissions redirection process for students who complete these degrees but are denied admission to the CSU campus to which they have applied. This measure also requires the CCC and the CSU to establish a student-centered communication and marketing strategy to increase the visibility of the AD/Ts pathway, as specified.

UC Transfer Action Team report. Convened in December 2013 by UC President Napolitano, the Transfer Action Team was to recommend strategies to strengthen and streamline the transfer pathway between the CCC and the UC. The report, released by the Team in May of 2014, entitled, "Preparing California For Its Future: Enhancing Community College Student Transfer to UC," is a product of consultation with students, staff, and faculty, as well as the CCC and CSU. The Team had several key recommendations, including, but not limited to: (1) the need for the UC to enhance its message to prospective transfer students that they can afford and thrive at UC and create resources that invite and help prepare them for transfer, especially underserved students; (2) increase UC's presence at every CCC campus; (3) streamline and strengthen the UC transfer preparation process; and, (4) commit UC to working with CCC and CSU to jointly engage in statewide strategic planning to improve the transfer pathway, present a united voice for higher education in Sacramento and with the California public, and increase the capacity of the segments to accommodate students.

Transfer pathways and transfer admission guarantee (TAG). The UC Transfer Pathways outline a single set of community college courses that prospective transfer students can take to prepare for a particular major at any of UC's nine undergraduate campuses. Just last month an additional 11 Transfer Pathways were finalized. Now, with Transfer Pathways developed for the 21 most popular majors for transfer students, the Pathways cover two-thirds of all transfer admissions applications UC receives.

Six UC campuses (Davis, Irvine, Merced, Riverside, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz) offer the TAG program for CCC students who meet specific requirements. Students participating in TAG will receive early review of their academic records, early admission notification, and specific guidance about major preparation and general education coursework.

This measure requests the UC to report to the Legislature on the number of CCC students who utilized the transfer pathway and/or TAG and were granted admission and denied admission to the UC, along with the average GPA, broken down by UC campuses.

Need for the measure. According to the author, "UC is not currently required or requested by statute to report on their efforts to strengthen and simplify transfer from the CCCs to UC." The author contends that, "The Legislature must continue monitoring UC to ensure a straightforward transfer process is available to all students. This bill requests reporting from UC related to transfer between the CCCs and UC."

The author suggests that providing more information in the coming years will help the Legislature track UC on its efforts to strengthen and simplify the transfer process.

Policy consideration. As drafted, this measure calls for each UC campus to report on the average GPA for CCC transfer students, as outlined in the measure. Committee staff understands that it may not be possible for each UC campus to report CCC transfer students' GPA by program and potentially by campus.

Moving forward, the author may wish to continue working with the UC in order to determine the best possible solution for obtaining GPA data.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

The Campaign for College Opportunity

Opposition

None on file.

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