

Date of Hearing: June 21, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

ACR 158 (Holden) – As Introduced March 29, 2016

SUBJECT: Postsecondary education: transfers.

SUMMARY: Encourages the Academic Senates of the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges (CCC) to expedite their current efforts to streamline the transfer process and ensure that all general education credits can transfer between the UC, CSU, and the CCC systems. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Makes numerous declarations and findings, including, among others:
 - a) All students deserve the right to choose an educational institution that best fits their needs;
 - b) Students should be able to transfer as their circumstances change throughout their educational experience;
 - c) Students should be given clear and concise information on how to transfer and how their credits will transfer;
 - d) The UC and the CSU educational systems should have articulation agreements with each other so students transferring from campus to campus or across the systems should not incur additional expenses or time to retake classes previously taken at another UC or CSU campus;
 - e) Special attention should be given to ensure Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) classes transfer across California's public postsecondary educational institutions; and,
 - f) Transferring within the University of California and the California State University educational systems should be seamless for students and not require students to retake courses.
- 2) Recognizes the necessity for a more cohesive, robust, and fair articulation process across the UC, CSU, and CCC educational systems so students are not unduly burdened while trying to transfer and are able to graduate in a timely manner.
- 3) Encourages the Academic Senates of the UC, CSU and CCC to accelerate their current efforts to streamline the transfer process and ensure that all general education credits can transfer between the UC, CSU, and CCC educational systems.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) 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 (Education Code (EC) Sections 66740, 66741, 66742).

- 2) Requires a CCC district 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).
- 3) Requires the CSU to guarantee admission with junior status to any CCC 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 California State University prior to the fall term of the 2012-13 academic year (EC Section 66747).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Background.* A constituent of the author, after completing three semesters at one CSU decided to change majors and sought to transfer to another CSU campus that offers the new major. During the transfer process, only three of the constituent's classes transferred. The constituent had to enroll in a CCC, which accepted his credits from the initial CSU campus, and continues to seek ways as to how to allow all of the credits to be accepted at the new CSU.

According to the CSU, the constituent's case will soon have an appeal hearing. At this time, no additional information is available.

Purpose for this measure. According to the author, "This resolution is seeking to streamline the student credit transfer process from and across University of California campuses and California State Universities. AB 2303 from 2010 Requires UC, CSU, and CCC to develop an intersegmental common core transfer curriculum in major preparation courses in which the major preparation common core curriculum shall be the same for all transfer students, regardless of the public four-year institution or the campus to which the student transfers, yet in 2016 this still is not happening. It appears that the Community Colleges hold most of the articulation agreements and therefore students need to go to a CCC in order to take advantage of transferring credits in the most effective way. Community Colleges are measured on their transfer rates of students who go to UC and Cal States. California State Universities and University of California do not have the same incentive to help students transfer across or within their two systems."

UC and CSU transfer process. According to the UC Academic Senate Regulation, Chapter 6, any student may be transferred from one college or school of the UC to another upon approve of the dean or other responsible officer or committee of the college or school to which admission is sought. Additionally, all UC course credit earned on a main campus is transferable to a sister campus.

According to the CSU, courses that are considered university-level at one CSU main campus will transfer that way to any CSU campus. That is to say, if the course is not a remedial course (mathematics or English), then the course will transfer to the other CSU campus at the very least as general, transferable units. To note, if the courses taken were approved general education courses at the CSU where they were taken, then they will be counted as general education

courses at the other CSU campuses (via reciprocity agreements). However, if there is formal articulation between two campuses for the exact courses a student took at the first CSU campus, then the courses will transfer to the second CSU campus as specific courses.

Additionally, according to the CSU, there may not be a large number of articulated courses between CSU campuses due to the articulation workload being focused on the 113 community colleges and CCC students being the majority of transfer students.

Committee consideration. The Legislature made improving the transfer pathways for CCC students to the UC and CSU a legislative priority when it passed key pieces of legislation in order to streamline the process and enable greater ability for CCC students to transfer (see "Existing Law" section of this analysis). *The Committee may wish to consider whether or not it is feasible or a legislative priority to encourage the UC and CSU to now have to expedite creating articulation agreements for students seeking to transfer from campus to campus within the UC and CSU while they are still working to continue to improve and create more articulation agreements for CCC students.*

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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