

Date of Hearing: April 21, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mike Fong, Chair

AB 2694 (Alvarez) – As Introduced February 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program

SUMMARY: Modifies the conditions under which community college districts (CCD)s may offer baccalaureate degree programs by replacing the existing prohibition on program duplication with a regionalized "substantial similarity" standard, and streamlines the objection and consultation process for the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC). Specifically, **this bill**:

- 1) Replaces the existing prohibition on a CCD offering a baccalaureate degree program or program curricula already offered by the CSU or UC with a prohibition on programs substantially similar to a CSU or UC baccalaureate degree program offered within the geographic region served by the community college district, with two exceptions:
 - a) Where the CSU or UC does not enroll students from that geographic region in the same degree pathway; or,
 - b) Where documented unmet regional workforce, as specified, needs justify the program.
- 2) Modifies the consultation requirement for proposed baccalaureate degree programs by narrowing the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges' (CCC) obligation to consult with the CSU and UC to proposals that may be substantially similar to programs offered within the geographic region of the proposing district, and removes the existing requirement to consult with the President of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) at the objection stage.
- 3) Modifies the objection process so that, upon receipt of a written objection from CSU or UC asserting substantial similarity within the geographic region, the Chancellor of the CCC will convene the applicant and the objecting segment to establish a written agreement before the program is approved. Removes the existing 30-working-day deadlines for filing objections and for convening the parties.
- 4) Adds the following definitions for purposes of the baccalaureate degree program article:
 - a) "Documented unmet regional workforce need" means evidence, as defined by the Chancellor, showing demand for graduates in the field not met by existing baccalaureate programs within the geographic region.
 - b) "Geographic region" means the primary service area of the CCD, as specified, or as otherwise defined by the Chancellor.
 - c) "Substantially similar" means that the proposed program's curriculum, learning outcomes, and program objectives are materially overlapping with those of an existing CSU or UC

baccalaureate program offered within the geographic region such that the programs serve indistinguishable academic and workforce purposes.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Differentiates the missions and functions of public and independent institutions of higher education. Under these provisions:
 - a) The primary mission of the California State University (CSU) is to offer undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education including teacher education. The CSU is authorized to establish two-year programs only when mutually agreed upon by the Trustees and the CCC Board of Governors (BOG). The CSU is also authorized to jointly award the doctoral degree with the University of California (UC) and with one or more independent institutions of higher education;
 - b) The UC is authorized to provide undergraduate and graduate instruction and has exclusive jurisdiction in public higher education over graduate instruction in the professions of law, medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine. The UC is also the primary state-supported academic agency for research;
 - c) The independent institutions of higher education are required to provide undergraduate and graduate instruction and research in accordance with their respective missions; and,
 - d) The mission and function of the CCC is the offering of academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level, and the CCC are authorized to grant the Associate in Arts and the Associate in Science degrees. The community colleges are also required to offer learning supports to close learning gaps, English as a Second Language instruction, and adult noncredit instruction, and support services which help students succeed at the postsecondary level. (Education Code (EDC) Section 66010.4)
- 2) Authorizes the BOG of the CCC to establish permanent district baccalaureate degree programs, and provided that only 15 baccalaureate degree programs are approved during each application period allowing for a total of 30 baccalaureate degree programs per academic year. Additionally, existing law:
 - a) Specifies that CCDs, as part of the baccalaureate degree program, will have the additional mission to provide high-quality undergraduate education at an affordable price for students and the state;
 - b) Requires the Chancellor of the CCC to consult with and seek feedback from the Chancellor of the CSU, the President of the University of California (UC), and the President of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) on proposed baccalaureate degree programs, as specified, and establishes a mechanism for the assessment, consultation, and approval of programs where duplication is identified, as specified;
 - c) Requires a CCD to continue to offer an associate degree program in the same academic subject for which baccalaureate degree program has been approved, unless the CCD has

received approval from the CCC Chancellor to eliminate the associate degree program, and requires the CCC Chancellor to evaluate both changes to the labor market viability of an associate degree and changes to the minimum education required to maintain program accreditation when making a decision to authorize the elimination of an associate degree program; and,

- d) Specifies that the total number of baccalaureate degree programs offered by a CCD, at any time, does not exceed 25% of the total number of associate degree programs offered by the CCD, including associate degrees for transfer. (EDC Section 78040, *et seq.*)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: According to the author, “California’s economic future depends on our ability to meet regional workforce demands while expanding equitable access to higher education. AB 2694 ensures that community college bachelor’s degree programs remain responsive, affordable, and aligned with local labor market needs. By clarifying outdated statutory barriers, this bill helps students—especially those who are place-bound or underserved—access high-quality, four-year degree opportunities in their communities.”

Master Plan for Higher Education. As outlined in the Master Plan for Higher Education and by state statute, the CCCs are designated to have an open admission policy and bear the most extensive responsibility for lower-division undergraduate instruction. Its three primary areas of mission include education leading to associates degrees and university transfer, career technical education, and basic skills. The primary mission of the CSU is undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master’s degree. The UC was granted the sole authority to independently offer doctoral degrees.

Notwithstanding the differentiation of the mission envisioned by the Master Plan, as outlined in statute, the Legislature authorized the CSU to go beyond its original mission to offer six professional doctoral degrees which include the Au.D, Ed.D, D.P.T., DNP, OTD, and Dr.PH. Each program was individually approved through legislation. Fees were capped at the rate charged at the UC, no additional funding was provided by the state, and these programs were to be implemented without diminishing or reducing enrollment in undergraduate programs. Additionally, the CSU programs that offer applied doctorates were not duplicative of degrees offered by UC.

Parallel expansion. SB 850 (Block), Chapter 747, Statutes of 2014, authorized the CCC BOG, in consultation with the CSU and the UC, to establish a baccalaureate degree pilot program. The pilot program allowed up to 15 participating CCDs to offer one baccalaureate degree program each to meet local workforce needs as long as it was not duplicating a baccalaureate degree program already offered by the CSU or the UC. The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) conducted interim and final evaluations of the pilot program.

AB 927 (Medina and Choi), Chapter 565, Statutes of 2021 made the original pilot program (SB 850 (Block) Chapter 747, Statutes of 2014 permanent, perpetually approving the original pilot programs and authorizing as many as 30 new baccalaureate degrees per year. AB 656 (McCarty), Chapter 663, Statutes of 2023, authorizes the CSU to award professional or applied doctoral degrees statewide that do not duplicate UC doctoral degrees and satisfy certain requirements.

CCC Baccalaureate Degree Program. The CCC Baccalaureate Degree Program was established to allow community college districts to offer four-year degrees in subject areas with documented unmet workforce needs that are not duplicated by existing CSU or UC programs. As of the most recent data available from the CCCCCO, 45 colleges have received approval to offer baccalaureate programs, with a combined total of 60 approved programs statewide. The most common program areas are Respiratory Care or Therapy, offered at 11 colleges, followed by Dental Hygiene at 8 colleges and Biomanufacturing at 6 colleges — reflecting the program's emphasis on allied health and technical workforce training. Southern California has the highest concentration of approved programs, accounting for approximately 40 percent of all approvals, while rural and North State colleges represent the smallest share but some of the most regionally distinctive offerings. The program operates under a structured, merit-based approval process that evaluates workforce need, program quality, institutional capacity, and non-duplication of UC and CSU offerings before any authorization is granted.

Regarding the approval timeline, community college districts may submit applications on one of two cycles annually — by January 15 for a May 31 decision, or by August 15 for a December 31 decision — with the Chancellor's Office conducting a minimum 30-day review of each completed application. No more than 15 programs may be approved in any single application period, for a maximum of 30 new approvals per academic year, and a district's total baccalaureate offerings may not exceed 25 percent of its associate degree programs at any time.

Tension over duplication. The tension between the CCC and the CSU over baccalaureate program duplication has been well-documented in recent years. Disagreement over what constitutes duplication has left more than a dozen proposed programs in limbo since, with the two systems holding fundamentally different views on whether geographic distance between institutions is a relevant factor in the duplication analysis.

CSU has raised concerns — reflected in resolutions by the CSU Academic Senate and statements from the CSU Chancellor's Office — about both the philosophical boundaries established by the 1960 Master Plan and the potential enrollment and funding impacts of expanding community college baccalaureate offerings. The dispute recently reached an inflection point in February 2026, when the CCC Chancellor's Office approved three programs over CSU's objections — at Mesa College, Moorpark College, and Southwestern College — a decision reported by EdSource that followed years of deliberations and a WestEd analysis commissioned by the community college system examining CSU's duplication claims against 16 pending proposals.

Higher education coordination. All of California's public education institutions share a commitment to work together to ensure that parts of the system work for all Californians. Since the defunding of the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) in 2011, California has not had a statewide coordinating entity for higher education. Prior to its demise, the role of CPEC included academic program review to coordinate the long-range planning of the state's public higher education systems as a means to ensure that the segments were working together to carry out their individual missions while serving the state's long-range workforce and economic needs.

The absence of a higher education coordinating entity has hindered the state's ability to review degree programs to ensure alignment with state and workforce needs. In its place, changes to higher education's blueprint are being made one legislative proposal at a time in a piecemeal way, which has arguably resulted in an uncoordinated and fragmented system. Although this bill

is limited to one community college baccalaureate degree program, it establishes a precedent for permitting duplication of degree programs and could expand CCC's ability to establish baccalaureate degrees independently from California's other public universities.

In 2025 the Governor signed AB 1098 (Fong & Padilla), Chapter 446, Statutes of 2025, establishing the California Education Interagency Council (Council) within the Government Operations Agency to align education and workforce systems, support adult skill development, and address the changing nature of work and the economy. The language of AB 1098 (Fong) specifically states that the Council was created to increase "collaboration across postsecondary education" and to be a "a forum for communication to discuss the impacts of proposed intersegmental and cross-sector issues.

Arguments in support. The Community College Baccalaureate Degree Association wrote in support of AB 2694 (Alvarez), stating that "under current California law, a community college may only offer a baccalaureate degree if that degree does not duplicate a similar degree at a campus of the UC or the CSU. Current law does not take into account that CSU campuses and UC campuses are regional universities that may not be able to provide access to students in other parts of the state. Under current law, for example, a place-bound student attending a community college in the San Diego region may be denied access to a baccalaureate degree because of duplication concerns from an CSU in Northern California."

The Community College Baccalaureate Degree Association continued, noting that "...many UC and CSU campuses and programs are impacted. Specifically, five CSU campuses, San Diego, Long Beach, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, and Fullerton remain impacted across all programs. This means that students living in those regions could be denied access to important job training programs simply because a CSU offers that program – even if that student is unable to access that CSU campus. AB 2694 addresses these problems by meeting students where they are. Under this important measure, community college baccalaureate degree duplication would be defined by region increasing important access points for California's community college students. At the same time, it provides community college students with an additional access point where there is a regional workforce need that is going unfulfilled by current four-year offerings."

The Community College League of California, representing the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges, also wrote in support, stating that "the current statutory framework governing these programs includes a broad prohibition on duplicating CSU or UC offerings. In practice, this restriction limits program development even when there is clear regional labor market demand and limited capacity within existing university pathways. The lack of clarity regarding what constitutes 'duplication' further complicates program approval and can delay or deter the development of needed degrees. AB 2694 addresses these challenges by replacing the current duplication standard with a 'substantially similar' threshold and by explicitly allowing program approval when regional workforce needs are demonstrated or when CSU or UC institutions are not serving students from the affected region in the relevant pathway. The bill appropriately strengthens the evidentiary standard for workforce alignment, requiring labor market data, employer engagement, workforce board input, and documentation of hiring demand or wage premiums associated with bachelor's degree attainment."

Arguments in opposition. The CSU Office of the Chancellor wrote in opposition, stating that "AB 2694 would amend the existing process to allow a community college to offer a baccalaureate degree program that is not available in their region, or if the community college

determines that an existing program is failing to meet a regional workforce need. These changes raise significant concerns and offer minimal clarity on how programs would be considered as substantially similar and what would constitute a demonstrable unmet workforce need. These determinations should be made objectively, reflect workforce needs identified by employers and communities, and be done in a collaborative process with the CSU, UC and CCC.”

The CSU Office of the Chancellor also wrote that they believe “...that the most effective and sustainable way to increase access and attainment of a baccalaureate degree is improving the CCC-CSU transfer pathway and developing further partnerships between our institutions that can deliver results faster than creating new baccalaureate programs. Collaboration and partnership with community colleges is an absolute priority for the CSU and a core tenet of our new systemwide strategic plan, CSU Forward.”

The CSU Office of the Chancellor also wrote that “CSU Bachelor’s Partnership Pathways can also be leveraged to support specific community colleges and regional workforce needs. These program-specific transfer pathways are developed collaboratively between CSU campuses and partner community colleges. These pathways align lower-division community college coursework with CSU upper-division requirements, providing students with a clear and efficient route to a CSU bachelor’s degree. While often referred to as ‘2+2 programs,’ they are flexible in structure and include co-located programs, online pathways, and post-associate or post-licensure programs (such as ADN-to-BSN programs). These partnerships expand access, affordability and degree completion by reducing excess units, minimizing transfer confusion, and allowing many students to remain in their communities. They also support workforce needs and serve place-bound, working and adult learners. Examples include Cal Poly’s 2+2 Sociology program at Allan Hancock College, Fresno State’s Central Valley Scholars Law Pathway, and in-person baccalaureate degree programs co-located at Southwestern College’s campus in Chula Vista.”

Committee comments. AB 2694 seeks to address a genuine challenge in the current baccalaureate degree approval framework. As noted by the bill's supporters, the existing statutory prohibition on duplicating CSU or UC offerings does not account for the regional nature of California's public higher education system, and has resulted in more than a dozen proposed programs remaining stalled — in some cases for multiple years — as the community college and CSU systems work through fundamental disagreements about what constitutes duplication. For a place-bound student in one region of the state, an objection raised by a CSU campus hundreds of miles away can meaningfully limit access to a credential tied to local workforce demand. At the same time, the CSU Chancellor's Office raises legitimate concerns that the bill's new standards — “substantially similar” and “documented unmet regional workforce need” — are not clearly defined, and that these determinations should be made through a collaborative, evidence-based process rather than through standards that could be applied inconsistently across the system.

The role of collaboration and incentivizing partnership. Both proponents and opponents of this bill have identified intersegmental partnership as a preferred mechanism for expanding baccalaureate access in California. The CSU Office of the Chancellor, in its opposition letter, points to existing tools — including 2+2 programs, co-located degrees, and post-associate pathways such as ADN-to-BSN — as available mechanisms for expanding baccalaureate access that do not require new program authorization. The Community College League of California, in support, acknowledges that regional workforce alignment should drive program development and emphasizes the value of employer engagement and workforce board input in shaping program design. Both positions share an underlying premise: that collaborative approaches,

where feasible, can serve students more quickly and at lower cost than standing up entirely new programs.

Despite this shared premise, the statutory framework governing community college baccalaureate programs does not currently include any affirmative mechanisms to encourage or incentivize partnership. Existing law establishes a process for independent program approval and provides for consultation and objection by CSU and UC, but contains no parallel pathway — expedited or otherwise — to recognize and reward jointly developed programs. As a result, the burden of pursuing partnership falls entirely on individual districts and campuses, with no systemic support or incentive structure to make collaboration the preferred first step.

The Committee may wish to consider whether AB 2694 (Alvarez), as currently drafted, strengthens or weakens the incentive for community college districts to pursue these collaborative pathways before seeking approval for an independent baccalaureate program. By making independent program approval more accessible, the bill may inadvertently reduce the pressure on both segments to negotiate joint solutions — particularly in cases where a partnership pathway may ultimately serve students faster and at lower cost.

The Committee may also wish to consider whether the Legislature has a broader role to play in more actively encouraging partnership and collaboration between the community colleges, CSU, and UC. This could take several forms, to include dedicated funding or technical assistance to support the development of joint program agreements; These are questions that extend beyond the scope of AB 2694 (Alvarez) but are raised by it, and warrant continued attention as the bill moves through the legislative process.

The definition of "substantially similar." AB 2694 (Alvarez) introduces a new standard for evaluating program overlap, defining "substantially similar" as programs whose curriculum, learning outcomes, and program objectives are materially overlapping such that they serve indistinguishable academic and workforce purposes. As CSU notes, the practical application of this standard is unclear. Who determines whether two programs are "materially overlapping"? Under what evidentiary standard? And on what timeline?

The Committee may wish to consider whether further clarity is needed in the statute itself, or whether the determination should be left to administrative guidance developed in consultation with the affected segments.

Unilateral authority of the CCC Chancellor. AB 2694 vests significant authority in the Chancellor of the CCC to make determinations that affect not only CCDs but also the CSU and UC systems. The Chancellor is charged with defining what constitutes a "documented unmet regional workforce need," determining when objections rise to the level of substantial similarity, and ultimately deciding whether to approve programs in the face of disagreement.

The Committee may wish to consider whether the bill provides adequate procedural safeguards — including defined timelines, evidentiary standards, and reporting requirements — to ensure that these determinations are made transparently and consistently across districts.

Institutional capacity and the CCC mission. The CCC's primary mission, as established in existing law, is the offering of lower-division academic and vocational instruction. Baccalaureate

programs represent an expansion of that mission — one that requires institutional capacity, faculty expertise, and sustained student support.

The Committee may wish to consider whether a district's eligibility to offer new baccalaureate programs should be tied to performance on core mission metrics, including associate degree completion rates and equity gap closure consistent with the benchmarks noted in the CCC Vision 2030 strategic plan. The current bill does not require applicant districts to demonstrate performance on measures before further expanding into four-year degree territory.

Scale and program cap. The existing statute allows a CCD to offer baccalaureate programs up to 25 percent of its associate degree offerings. As approved programs continue to grow — with 60 programs currently approved at 45 colleges — *the Committee may wish to consider whether this cap remains appropriate, or whether a lower threshold would better preserve institutional focus on the community college mission.*

Sunset and legislative review. AB 2694 (Alvarez) represents a substantial expansion of the authority granted to community college districts under the statewide baccalaureate degree program, including a new standard for evaluating program duplication, new exceptions based on geographic region and workforce need, and new definitions that delegate significant interpretive authority to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. Changes of this scope may warrant ongoing legislative attention to ensure that the expanded provisions are working as intended and are producing outcomes consistent with the broader goals of the statewide higher education system.

One tool available to the Legislature for this kind of ongoing oversight is the use of sunset provisions. On March 17, 2026, this Committee participated in a Joint Sunset Review hearing for the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, which provided an opportunity to examine the Bureau's performance, identify areas of concern, and consider statutory modifications informed by several years of implementation experience. That process illustrates how sunset review can serve as a structured mechanism for the Legislature to make intentional, evidence-based policy adjustments.

The Committee may wish to consider whether the expanded provisions of AB 2694 (Alvarez) should be subject to a sunset date that would require affirmative legislative action to extend or modify them. A sunset would allow the Legislature to evaluate how the new "substantially similar" standard is being applied in practice, whether the geographic region and workforce need exceptions are operating as intended, whether the partnership requirement is producing meaningful collaborative outcomes, and whether any unintended consequences have emerged for either the community college, CSU, or UC systems. This would also create a natural point at which to consider whether further statutory refinement — including any issues not addressed by this bill but raised during its consideration — could be taken up in a comprehensive manner, informed by data and implementation experience.

Committee amendments. The Committee recommends amendments that would do the following:

- 1) *Attainment accountability as a condition of eligibility.* Require CCDs participating in the statewide baccalaureate degree program to demonstrate that they meet performance benchmarks and goals for associate degree and certificate completion as established by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. A district that has not yet met

those benchmarks may nonetheless apply if it submits a board-adopted improvement plan with measurable milestones consistent with the district's obligations under the Vision 2030 strategic plan.

- 2) *Reduce the program cap.* Reduce the maximum share of baccalaureate degree programs a community college district may offer from 25 percent to 15 percent of the district's total associate degree programs.
- 3) *Require good-faith partnership efforts before independent program approval.* Require a CCD, prior to submitting an application for an independent baccalaureate degree program in a subject area already offered by CSU or UC within the district's geographic region, to make a documented, good-faith effort to establish a collaborative baccalaureate degree program with the relevant CSU or UC campus. The district shall provide the Chancellor of the CCC with documentation of that effort as part of its application, and the Chancellor shall not approve an independent program in such a subject area unless the district has satisfied these requirements. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to grant CSU or UC a unilateral veto over a proposed community college baccalaureate program.
- 4) *Annual legislative reporting.* Requires the Chancellor of the CCC to annually report to the Legislature on the status of baccalaureate degree programs. The report shall include information on program approvals, the performance benchmarks and goals established by the Board of Governors, district standing relative to those benchmarks, collaborative efforts pursued with CSU or UC, and student outcome data including completion rates and employment outcomes.

Related legislation. AB 664 (Alvarez) authorizes the Chancellor of the California Community College (CCC) to allow the Southwestern Community College District (SWCCD) to offer no more than four workforce- aligned baccalaureate degrees programs, as provided. Requires interim and final reports from the LAO, and sunsets the provisions on January 1, 2035. AB 664 is currently pending a hearing in the Senate Committee on Education.

AB 2053 (Ta) authorizes the Chancellor of the CCC to authorize the Coast CCD to offer a workforce-aligned cybersecurity baccalaureate degree program at Coastline College, as provided. Require the LAO to, on or before July 1, 2030, conduct and present to the Legislature and the Governor an interim evaluation of the baccalaureate degree program that is offered pursuant to that authorization and, on or before July 1, 2034, a final evaluation of that degree program, as provided. AB 2053 (Ta) is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education on April 21, 2026.

AB 2136 (Pacheco) authorizes the BOG of the CCC to authorize the Cerritos CCD to offer up to three applied baccalaureate degree programs in the fields of public safety management, paralegal studies, and automotive technology. AB 2136 (Pacheco) is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education on April 2, 2026.

AB 2301 (Soria) requires the CCC Chancellor's Office to develop a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing (BSN) Pilot Program that authorizes select CCDs to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. The bill would limit the pilot program to 10 CCDs statewide and would require the CCCCO to identify and select eligible community college districts based on specified

criteria. AB 2301 (Soria) is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education on April 21, 2026.

SB 960 (Cabaldon) limits the prohibition on CCC duplication of CSU baccalaureate degree programs to instances where a CSU's campus local admission area includes or overlaps with the CCC district's territory, except when the CSU program has been impacted for at least three consecutive years. SB 960 is currently pending hearing in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Prior legislation. AB 1400 (Soria), of 2025, would have required Chancellor of the CCC to develop a BSN Pilot Program that authorizes select community college districts to offer a BSN degree. AB 1400 was vetoed by the Governor. The Governor's veto read, in part:

Last year, I vetoed a nearly identical bill, citing two primary reasons that continue to persist.

First, the 2024 Budget Agreement included \$60 million per year, from 2025-26 to 2028-29, for the Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Grant Program, which may be used to develop or expand BSN partnerships with UC, CSU, and independent nonprofit higher education institutions. These partnerships have proven successful in expanding BSN access for community college students and increasing the number of BSN degree recipients. All segments of higher education must continue to collaborate on building these programs, and returning this bill will ensure those collaborative efforts are not undermined.

Second, in recent years, both the CCC and the CSU have been authorized to offer independent programs outside of their traditional roles, provided they do not duplicate degree offerings of other public segments. I encourage the CCC system to focus on implementing this expanded authority and to ensure that it can continue to make progress on the unique and vital role the CCC plays in serving its students and the state. Given these significant changes, a pause should be maintained to understand their full impact before additional authorities are granted.

AB 1098 (Fong), Chapter 446, Statutes of 2025, is described in *Higher education coordination* above.

SB 155 (Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 71, Statutes of 2024, created Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Grant Program to expand nursing programs and partnerships, address nursing shortages, and increase, educate, and maintain the next generation of registered nurses through the community college system. The Budget Act of 2024 supported this program with \$60 million Proposition 98 General Fund per year for five years, starting in 2024-25, with CCC Strong Workforce Program funding.

AB 2401 (Soria) of 2024, would have required Chancellor of the CCC to develop a BSN Pilot Program that authorizes select community college districts to offer a BSN degree. AB 2401 (Soria) was vetoed by the Governor.

SB 895 (Roth) of 2024, would have required the CCC Chancellor's Office to establish a Community College BSN Pilot Program that would authorize 10 community college districts to offer a BSN degree. AB 895 (Roth) was vetoed by the Governor, and the veto message was substantively similar to the veto message of AB 2401 (Soria) detailed on page 9 of this analysis.

AB 656 (McCarty), Chapter 663, Statutes of 2023, authorized the CSU to award professional or applied doctoral degrees statewide that do not duplicate UC doctoral degrees and satisfy certain requirements. Required a CSU campus seeking authorization to offer a professional or applied doctoral degree to submit specified information on the proposed doctoral degree for review by the office of the Chancellor of the CSU, and approval by the CSU Board of Trustees, as provided.

AB 1311 (Soria), Chapter 126, Statutes of 2023, required the LAO to conduct an assessment, on or before January 1, 2025, evaluating the efficacy of existing programs in allied health jointly offered between campuses of the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California. Required the final assessment to be reported, in writing, to the Legislature and the Governor on or before January 1, 2025, as specified.

SB 684 (Hueso), Chapter 936, Statutes of 2022, authorized CSU to offer the DrPH degree, and specified that DrPH degree programs offered by the CSU will focus on health and scientific knowledge translation and transformative community leadership.

AB 927 (Medina and Choi), Chapter 565, Statutes of 2021, removed the cap on the total number of baccalaureate degree programs allowed within the CCC system and eliminates the January 1, 2027, sunset date of the statewide baccalaureate degree pilot program, thereby permanently authorizing the offering of baccalaureate degree programs at CCCs.

SB 874 (Hill) of 2020, would have extended the operation of the statewide baccalaureate degree pilot program indefinitely. The bill would have removed the requirements that the program consist of a maximum of 15 community college district programs and for a student to commence a program by the end of the 2022–23 academic year. SB 874 was held in the Senate Committee on Education due to bill restrictions from COVID-19.

AB 829 (Bloom), Chapter 183, Statutes of 2019, authorized CSU to offer the OTD degree, and specifies that OTD degree programs offered by the CSU will focus on preparing occupational therapists to provide health care services and to be consistent with the standards for accreditation set forth by the appropriate accrediting body.

SB 577 (Dodd), Chapter 603, Statutes of 2018, established the CCC Teacher Credentialing Partnership Pilot Program, awarding grants to collaboratives of one or more teacher-credentialing higher education institutions partnering with one or more community colleges for the purpose of offering teacher credentialing programs at community colleges.

AB 422 (Arambula), Chapter 702, Statutes of 2017, authorized CSU to offer the DNP degree programs, and specified that the DNP offered by the CSU shall focus on the preparation of nursing faculty to teach in postsecondary nursing education programs and may also train nurses for advanced nursing practice or nurse leadership.

SB 769 (Hill) of 2017, would have extended the operation of the statewide baccalaureate degree pilot program until July 1, 2028. SB 769 was held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

AB 2317 (Mullin), Chapter 267, Statutes of 2016, authorized the CSU to offer the Au.D degree, and specifies that the Au.D degree programs at the CSU shall be focused on preparing audiologists to provide health care services and shall be consistent with the standards for accreditation set forth by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

SB 850 (Block), Chapter 747, Statutes of 2014, authorized the CCC BOG, in consultation with the CSU and the UC, to establish a baccalaureate degree pilot program. The pilot program allows up to 15 participating community college districts to offer one baccalaureate degree program each to meet local workforce needs as long as it does not duplicate a baccalaureate degree program already offered by the CSU or the UC.

AB 661 (Block) of 2011, authorized Grossmont-Cuyamaca and the San Mateo Community College districts to offer one baccalaureate degree pilot program per campus. AB 661 was heard and passed in the Assembly Higher Education Committee by a vote of 6-0 but was moved to the inactive file on the Assembly Floor.

AB 2400 (Block) of 2010, authorized the San Diego, Grossmont-Cuyamaca and San Mateo Community College districts to establish baccalaureate degree pilot programs. No vote was taken and AB 2400 was held in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

AB 2382 (Blumenfield), Chapter 425, Statutes of 2010, authorized the CSU to offer the D.P.T. degree, and specified that the D.P.T. degree programs at the CSU shall be focused on preparing physical therapists to provide health care services, and shall be consistent with meeting the requirements of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

SB 724 (Scott), Chapter 269, Statutes of 2005, authorized the CSU to independently award the Ed.D degree focused solely on preparing administrative leaders for California public K-14 schools.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Antelope Valley Community College District
Association of California Community College Administrators
California Community College Baccalaureate Association
California Community College Independents
Chabot Las Positas Community College District
Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges Board
Citrus College
College of the Redwoods
College of the Siskiyous
Contra Costa Community College District
Copper Mountain Community College District
Cuesta College
El Camino Community College District
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges

Foothill-de Anza Community College District
Glendale Community College
Hartnell Community College District
Kern Community College District
Madera Community College
Mendocino - Lake Community College District
Merced Community College District
Monterey Peninsula College
North Orange County Community College District
Palomar Community College District
Pasadena Area Community College District
San Bernardino Community College District
San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association
San Diego Community College District
Santa Clarita Community College District - College of the Canyons
Santa Monica Community College District
Sierra Community College District
South Orange County Community College District
Southwestern Community College District
State Center Community College District
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Ventura County Community College District
Victor Valley Community College District
West Hills Community College District
West Kern Community College District

Opposition

California Faculty Association
California State University, Office of the Chancellor

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