The Associate Degree for Transfer

Background

As a California community college, there are two fundamentally different kinds of associate degrees that we can award to a student:

- Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT)
  - Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T)
  - Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T)
- Non-ADT Associate Degree (aka ordinary associate degree, aka local associate degree)
  - Associate in Arts (AA)
  - Associate in Science (AS)

Agenda

Let's go over some of the key features of ADTs.
1. Key features for students
2. Key features for the college
3. Key features for faculty originators

Key Features for Students

A student who completes an ADT gets:
- Guarantee of admission into the CSU system.
- Assuming they continue in a similar major at a CSU, a guarantee that they can complete their degree in only 60 more units.

A student completing an ordinary associate degree does not get these benefits.

Key Features for Students

- All 60 units that a student uses towards earning an ADT must be CSU transferable.
  - There are some courses whose units can be counted towards a regular associate degree, but which are not CSU transferable, and thus cannot be counted towards an ADT, e.g., elementary and intermediate algebra, co-requisite math support courses, and our writing workshop courses.
- For their GE, the student must complete either IGETC or CSU GE.
  - For specific majors, IGETC for STEM and CSU GE for STEM are allowed instead, which means delaying one Arts/Humanities and one Social Science.
  - For an ordinary associate degree, the student need only complete the PCCD GE requirements, which are much less burdensome (many fewer units, the math requirement can be met with intermediate algebra).
  - Starting Fall 2025, students pursuing an ADT will have to complete CalGETC.

Key Features for Students

Since ADTs are meant to facilitate transfer into the CSU system, a student looking to transfer into the UC system may or may not be well-served by completing an ADT in their major.

- To what extent do the lower-division course requirements for their major at the UC overlap with the lower-division course requirements for their major at the CSU?
- How well-served would they be by completing all of IGETC or CSU GE (which they would have to do in order to get their ADT)?

Key Features for College

Under the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF), colleges are incentivized to award ADTs. In fact, we get more "points" for awarding an ADT than we get for any other metric of student success.

Points for an ADT =
- points awarded for a non-ADT associate degree x 1.33
- points awarded for a certificate of achievement x 2
- points awarded for a student successfully transferring to a four year university x 2.67

Key Features for College

- [Ed Code 66746](#) (b)(1)(A) requires colleges to develop associate degrees for transfer.
- "As a condition of receipt of state apportionment funds, a community college district shall develop and grant associate degrees for transfer."
- So is it somehow our responsibility to offer all of them (Agriculture Business, Hospitality Management, Theater Arts, etc.)? No.
- However…

Key Features for College

- Ed Code 66746 (b)(1)(C) does say that we cannot **only** offer an ordinary associate degree in a major when there is also the possibility of offering an ADT.
- "A community college shall create an associate degree for transfer in every major and area of emphasis offered by that college for any approved transfer model curriculum…within 18 months of the approval of the transfer model curriculum."

Key Features for College

- Moreover, [Ed Code 66749.8](#) (j)(1) says that, effective Fall 24, if a student declares a goal of transfer, and the college offers an ADT in the student's intended major, then the student must be placed on that ADT pathway, unless the student explicitly opts out.
- "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…and such a pathway exists for their intended major."

Key Features for Faculty Originators

- Before a college can offer an ADT in a major, a Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) for that major must be established first.
- The TMC for a major lays out what courses a student has to take, apart from any GE and electives, to get their ADT in that major.
- The list of majors for which a TMC has been established is available on the [state chancellor's office website](#) as well as [the C-ID website](#).

Key Features for Faculty Originators

- CSU and CCC faculty work together to establish the TMCs.
- This is to ensure that the major-specific coursework that is required by the TMC aligns with what the CSUs typically require in terms of lower-division coursework for that major.
- It's because of that alignment that the CSU system can guarantee that students who transfer in with their ADT will only need 60 more units to complete their degree.

Key Features for Faculty Originators

- When laying out what courses a student will have to take in order to get a certain ADT degree from BCC, e.g., to get their ADT in Art History, we can set up those course requirements in any way we wish as long as:
  - Meeting our course requirements is sufficient to meet the course requirements laid out by the TMC.
  - Meeting our course requirements will not force the student to go above and beyond what is required by the TMC.

Key Features for Faculty Originators

TMC Requirements	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Required core: ● ARTH 110 ● ARTH 120 ● ARTS 110	Required: ● ARTH 110 ● ARTH 120 ● ARTS 110 ● ARTH 130 ● ARTS 100 ● ARTS 101	Required: ● ARTH 110 ● ARTH 120 ● ARTS 110	Required: ● ARTH 110 ● ARTH 120 ● ARTS 110	Required: ● ARTH 110 ● ARTH 120 ● ARTS 110
One List A course: ● ARTH 130 ● ARTH 140 ● Non-Western AH		Select one: ● ARTH 130 ● ARTH 140	Select three: ● ARTH 130 ● ARTH 140 ● Non-Western AH ● ARTS 100 ● ARTS 101 ● ARTS 200	Select one: ● ARTH 130 ● ARTH 140
One List B course: ● ARTS 100 ● ARTS 101 ● ARTS 200 ● ….		Select two: ● ARTS 100 ● ARTS 101 ● ARTS 200 ● Non-Western AH		Select three: ● ARTS 100 ● ARTS 101 ● ARTS 200 ● Non-Western AH
One List C course: ● Any A or B not used ● …				