

ARTICULATION NEWSBRIEF

San Diego Mesa College

May—June 2011 Edition

Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Academic Senate Resolution for ASCCC Spring Plenary *Calling for a study of the minimum 18-unit requirement in a major/area of emphasis for an associate degree*



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Study of the 18-Unit Major/Area of Emphasis Requirement for an Associate Degree

David Beaulieu, Los Angeles Community College District

Whereas, The 18-semester-unit minimum requirement in a major/area of emphasis for an associate degree was adopted in Title 5 in the early 1980s, and since that time there has been no re-examination by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges regarding the need for this specific minimum unit total;

Whereas, The Fall 2005 Academic Senate for California Community Colleges paper "What Is the Meaning of a California Community College Degree?" does not mention a specific major unit total, but speaks generally about students acquiring focused study in an academic area as an aspect of an associate degree;

Whereas, The Fall 2006 Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges resolution 13.02 ("Opposition to Associate Degrees based Solely on IGETC and CSU GE Breadth") reiterates existing Title 5 language regarding the minimum of 18-units in a major/area of emphasis but does not present a justification as to why that particular total is required; *Continues on next page ...*

LACCD Academic Senate Associate Degree Resolution

Continuation...

Whereas, With the passage of SB 1440 (Padilla, 2010), California community colleges are required to create associate degrees for transfer to the California State University starting in the fall of 2011, and the 18-unit minimum requirement in a major/area of emphasis could force students who change majors to take a significant number of courses not needed to complete their transfer requirements; and

Whereas, The California Community Colleges Transfer Center Directors and Articulation Officers, the faculty most expert in the area of transfer, have expressed serious reservations as to the wisdom of maintaining 18 units in a major/area of emphasis for degrees developed to meet the needs of our transfer students;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges form a task force, including transfer center directors and articulation officers, to conduct a focused study of the 18-semester-unit major/area of emphasis requirement for an associate degree and report its findings and recommendations at the Spring 2012 Plenary session.



Note:

*Resolution passed
at the ASCCC Plenary
on Saturday,
April 16, 2011.*

STATEWIDE ARTICULATION OFFICER POSITION STATEMENT ON THE LACCD RESOLUTION

California Community Colleges Articulation Officers' Position Statement on The Los Angeles Community College District Proposed Resolution: Study of the 18-Unit Major/Area of Emphasis Requirement for an Associate Degree

The California Community Colleges Articulation Officers (CCC AOs) support the Los Angeles Community College District's proposed resolution titled *Study of the 18-Unit Major/Area of Emphasis Requirement for an Associate Degree* but recommend adding the phrase "intended for transfer preparation" to the final paragraph in order to modify it as follows:

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges form a task force, including transfer center directors and articulation officers, to conduct a focused study of the 18-semester-unit major/area of emphasis requirement for an associate degree intended for transfer preparation and report its findings and recommendations at the Spring 2012 Plenary session.

The CCC AOs support the resolution even if this change is not incorporated.

This position statement was developed and approved through the CCC Articulation Officers' (CCC AOs) regional organization via a statewide representative voting process. The process was approved by each region as the accepted method for communicating the overall position of CCC AOs throughout the state.

Bruce Johnston College of the Siskiyous Region 1; Kurt Combs Mendocino College Region 2; Steve Pantell Merritt College Region 3; Yolanda Coleman Mission College Region 4; Jack Saunders Delta College Region 5; Dave DeGroot Allan Hancock College Region 6; David Mack Glendale College Region 7; Ken Matsuura Cerritos College Region 8; Maggie Van Riper Chaffey College Region 9; Duane Short San Diego Miramar College Region 10.



REGION 7 CCC AND CSU ARTICULATION OFFICERS' POSITION ON THE TRANSFER MODEL CURRICULUM (TMC) DEGREES

Region 7 CCC and CSU Articulation Officers
Endorsed 02-04-2011

The Region 7 CCC and CSU Articulation Officers met on November 3rd, 2010, to discuss SB 1440 and review the draft TMC (Transfer Model Curriculum) degrees that were released on November 2nd in five majors. Looking at the data from 08-09 and 09-10 academic years, over 75% of Region 7 CCC students who transfer to the CSU transfer to one of the three Region 7 CSU campuses; CSUDH, CSULA, CSUN. It is most advantageous to our students if we work together as a region to ensure that we are providing our students what they need to transfer as efficiently and well-prepared as possible. At the February 4, 2011 Region 7 meeting a vote was taken and 9 of the 13 Region 7 Articulation Officers - all 7 in attendance, and an additional 2 who voted via email – and all 3 Region 7 CSU Articulation Officers agreed to support the recommendations put forth below.

In general, the overarching concerns are the following:

- Per SB1440 section 66749E, these degrees should take into account existing articulation agreements. However, upon examination of the 3 finalized TMC statewide model degrees, they all contain coursework that is not required by the transfer institutions
- The finalized statewide models do not have true lower-division major prep of at least 18 semester units. If we adopt these degrees, we are imposing an arbitrary restriction on course selection on our students.
- Many Region 7 CCC's do not offer all the required core courses in the proposed TMC degrees. If we adopt these degrees we should offer the core courses. Do we want to introduce new courses into our curriculum? How will this affect our existing course offerings? In times of budgetary uncertainty, departments will be forced to cut existing sections to fund the inclusion of these new courses in their schedules. An additional concern is the time it will take to develop these courses.

Per the ASCCC, the proposed TMC degrees are based on an arranged marriage between the CI-D project and the SB1440 legislation. There is no direct correlation between these two pieces of legislation and the proposed TMC degrees contain a narrow selection of coursework based on CI-D descriptor development rather than on what is actually required for upper-division transfer. The result is that our students will take too much coursework from the same, or closely related, academic disciplines rather than exploring other fields. Our students should be given the opportunity to explore other disciplines. This exploration is arguably one of the main goals of lower-division baccalaureate education.

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REGION 7 CCC AND CSU ARTICULATION OFFICERS' POSITION ON THE TRANSFER MODEL CURRICULUM (TMC) DEGREES ~ *continuation*

Specific concerns about the 3 finalized TMC degrees are:

Communications

09-10 CSU Systemwide Info: Rank 9 # of CCC transfers: 906

Major Impaction status at the Region 7 CSU campuses: not impacted

The primary concern with this model is that there are not 18-units required at the lower-division level in this major. CSUN requires no lower-division coursework and CSULA requires two courses. CSUDH does not offer this degree. The following reasons indicate that this model would not benefit our students:

- Students who change majors while they are with us may end up taking excess units if they follow this model. Why would we make them take units not required for transfer? This is contrary to the stated purpose of SB 1440.
- Coursework required in this model is offered at the upper-division level at some of the CSUs. We still do not know how this will be handled by the CSUs. The SB1440 language clearly leaves this up to the discretion of each CSU campus, most likely at the department level. Consequently, our students may be required to repeat this work after transfer at the upper-division level. Until this issue is resolved students should not be put in the position of possibly having to duplicate coursework.
- The courses chosen in the restricted electives correspond to the courses that have proposed CI-D descriptors rather than based on coursework that is in the best interest of our students.

Psychology

09-10 CSU Systemwide Info: Rank 2 # of CCC transfers: 2868

Major Impaction status at the Region 7 CSU campuses: CSUDH, CSUN: not impacted CSULA: Impacted for transfer students: Admission of transfer students for available spaces will be based on a rank ordering of cumulative grade point average, with a minimum transferrable GPA of 2.75.

The primary concern with this model is that there are not 18-units required at the lower-division level in this major. The CSUs typically require 6-9 units in lower-division major preparation for this major. Additionally:

- Students who change majors while they are with us may end up taking excess units if they follow this model. Why would we make them take units not required for transfer? This is contrary to the stated purpose of SB 1440.

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REGION 7 CCC AND CSU ARTICULATION OFFICERS' POSITION ON THE TRANSFER MODEL CURRICULUM (TMC) DEGREES ~ *continuation*

- Some of the coursework required in this model is offered at the upper-division level at some the CSUs. We still do not know how this will be handled by the CSUs. The SB 1440 language clearly leaves this up to the discretion of each CSU campus, most likely at the department level. Consequently, our students may be required to repeat this work after transfer at the upper-division level. Until this issue is resolved we do not want to put our students in the position of possibly having to duplicate coursework.
- The statewide model includes a core course, Research Methods, which very few Region 7 colleges offer. Further, we know that less than 50% of the CCCs offer this course statewide and only 10 CSU's require this course at the lower division level.
- The courses chosen in the restricted electives correspond to the courses that have proposed CI-D descriptors rather than based on coursework that is in the best interest of our students.

Sociology

09-10 CSU Systemwide Info: Rank 4 # of CCC transfers: 1428

Major Impaction status at the Region 7 CSU campuses: not impacted

The primary concern with this model is that there is not 18-units required at the lower-division level in this major. The CSUs typically require 3-6 units in lower-division major preparation. Additionally:

- Students who change majors while they are with us may end up taking excess units if they follow this model. Why would we make them take units not required for transfer in this major? This contrary to the stated purpose of SB 1440.
- There are too many sociology and social science courses in this model. Students only need 9 units of general education coursework in the social sciences (from at least two different disciplines) and should not be forced into taking units now required for lower-division or general education. Our students should explore other disciplines which is arguably one of the main goals of lower-division baccalaureate education.
- The courses chosen in the restricted electives correspond to the courses that have proposed CI-D descriptors rather than based on coursework that is in the best interest of our students.

In conclusion, there is no rush to adopt these degrees. If it turns out that these degrees prove to be beneficial for our students we can add them to our curriculum. In our considered opinion, any degree we adopt should be self-evident in its benefit to our students and at this point in time there are too many unresolved issues and unanswered questions for us to recommend adopting any of the finalized TMC models.

Region 7 CCCs and CSU include: *CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Los Angeles, CSU Northridge, East L.A. College, El Camino College, Glendale Community College, L.A. City College, L.A. Harbor College, L.A. Mission College, L.A. Pierce College, L.A. Southwest College, L.A. Trade Tech College, L.A. Valley College, Pasadena City College, Santa Monica College, West L.A. College*

**2011-2012 California State
University General Education
Breadth Pattern Submission
Results**

Course Accepted Course Approved

CHIN 202 Fourth Course in
Mandarin Chinese C2

Course Not Accepted Course Not Approved

PSYC 161 Introduction to
Counseling E

**2010 –2011 Mesa Curriculum
Review Committee (CRC)
Meeting Schedule
Thursdays 2:00 p.m.**

May 5, 2011

**Publication Deadlines
for CRC Review
2010 – 2011**

CRC Meeting Publication

May 5, 2011 Spring Schedule 2012

*Please note that all items submitted prior to and by these deadlines remain dependent upon subsequent CIC/Board of Trustee's and/or State approval. Until the appropriate subsequent approvals are given items cannot be included in the above publications. For updates and changes to deadlines please contact the Curriculum Chair M. (Toni) Parsons 388-2394

**SDCCD Curriculum and
Instructional Council (CIC)
Meeting Schedule 2010-2011
Thursdays 2:00 p.m.**

CIC Meeting Dates Proposal due to District

May 12, 2011 April 15, 2011



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Articulation NewsBrief

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