

Section 3: Certificates, Degrees and Programs

3A: Types of Certificates and Degrees

Certificates

Skyline offers three types of certificates in specified occupational fields:

- **Certificate of Achievement:** generally 12 to 30 semester units. These certificates are posted to a student's transcript.
- **Certificate of Specialization:** generally 12 to 17.5 semester units. These certificates are not posted to a student's transcript.
- **Skills or Career Certificate:** fewer than 12 units. These certificates are not posted to a student's transcript.

Associate Degrees

There are four types of associate degrees in the California Community College system:

- **Associate of Arts (A.A.)**
- **Associate of Science (A.S.)**
- **Associate in Science for Transfer (A.S.-T)** : for STEM and CTE programs
- **Associate in Arts for Transfer (A.A.-T)** : for all other programs

Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) *

Beginning in Fall 2011, California community colleges were required by Senate Bill 1440 (Padilla, 2010) and California Education Code section 66746(a) to develop and offer "Associate Degrees for Transfer" (ADT) that require students to meet the following requirements:

(1) Completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:

(A) The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education – Breadth Requirements.

(B) A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.

(2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

The benefits for students completing ADTs include:

- Guaranteed admission with junior status to any community college student who meets all of the requirements for the ADT. CSU is required to grant priority admission for a student with an ADT “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.” (Education Code section 66747)
- The ADT may not require more than 60 semester (or 90 quarter) units; and after transferring into the appropriate program at the CSU, the baccalaureate degree may not require more than 60 additional semester units, for a total of 120 semester (or 180 quarter) units required for the Baccalaureate Degree (Education Code section 66748).
- The CSU is prohibited by Education Code section 66748(c) from requiring a transferring student with an ADT to repeat courses that are similar to those taken at the community college that counted toward the ADT.

The designators for the Associate in Arts for Transfer (A.A.-T) and the Associate in Science for Transfer (A.S.-T) degrees have been established by the ASCCC and are reserved only for associate degrees that meet all requirements of SB 1440 and Education Code section 66746.

ADTs must be approved by the State Chancellor’s Office.

Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC)*

The ASCCC, in collaboration with the CSU Academic Senate, have developed Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) for certain majors for students who transfer from a California community college to CSU. Each TMC represents a structure developed by community college and CSU faculty for establishing the major components of a California community college ADT. According to Title 5, section 55063, and Education Code, section 66746, the associate degree must include a major or area of emphasis consisting of a minimum of 18 semester units.

TMCs were developed as a means of facilitating a statewide response to the mandate that all California community colleges offer ADTs. Draft TMCs are developed by intersegmental faculty in the discipline and made available for vetting at www.c-id.net. Once a TMC template is finalized, community college faculty have the option of developing degrees that align with the TMC. Approved TMC templates are located on the Chancellor’s Office Academic Affairs Division (www.cccco.edu/aad) website under “Templates for Approved Transfer Model Curriculum.”

* Text adapted from the State Chancellor’s Office.