

## Governor Newsom Signs ADT, Common Course Numbering, and Baccalaureate Degree Bills

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At a signing ceremony at California State University, Northridge on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed several significant higher education bills aimed at making college more accessible and affordable, including Assembly Bill (AB) 927, AB 928 and AB 1111.

### AB 927—Baccalaureate Degree Program

AB 927 repeals the July 1, 2026, sunset date for the Baccalaureate Degree Program, effectively making the program permanent. The bill allows for a total of 30 baccalaureate degree programs per academic year but requires the total number of programs offered by a community college district (CCD) to not exceed 25% of the total number of associate degree programs offered by the district.

The bill requires the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to consult with and seek feedback from the California State University (CSU) Chancellor, University of California (UC) President, and the President of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities on proposed baccalaureate degree programs. The bill also creates a formal complaint process that allows the CSU and UC to file a complaint to the CCCCCO if they feel a program is duplicative of one at the UC or CSU. Upon receipt of the written objections, the Chancellor has 30 working days to convene with the applicant and the segment that raised the objection to collaborate and establish a written agreement before the program is approved.

Finally, the bill requires a CCD to continue to offer an associate degree program in the same academic subject for which a baccalaureate degree program has been approved, unless the CCD has received approval from the CCCCCO to eliminate the associate degree program.

### AB 928—Associate Degree for Transfer

AB 928 establishes, until July 1, 2025, the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) Intersegmental Implementation Committee to serve as the primary entity charged with the oversight of ADT. The committee will establish timelines and reporting deadlines related to reviews of transfer model curricula, develop a comprehensive communications plan and guidance to inform students about the ADT pathway, and will provide the Legislature with recommendations on issues impeding the scaling of the ADT and streamlining transfer across segments for students.

Additionally, AB 928 requires the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates of the California Community Colleges (CCC), CSU, and UC to establish a singular lower division general education pathway that meets the academic requirements necessary for transfer admission to the CSU and UC. The bill then requires the CCCs to automatically place students who declare a goal of transfer on the ADT pathway if such a pathway exists for their intended major by August 1, 2024.

This was arguably the most controversial higher education bill placed on Governor Newsom's desk in 2021, as it was opposed by the Faculty Association of CCC, the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senate, the CCCCCO, and the UC. The parties expressed concern about the automatic placement of students into ADT programs and that the makeup of the ADT committee would include just one academic Senate member from each segment. The CCCCCO has also made it a policy priority to support legislation that puts students on an ADT pathway that guarantees them admission to a four-year institution. Since this bill does

not provide them with that guarantee they are worried that by signing this measure into law the Legislature would be hesitant to revisit the transfer issue for several years.

#### AB 1111—Common Course Numbering System

AB 1111 requires the CCC, by July 1, 2024, to adopt a common course numbering system for all general education requirement courses and transfer pathway courses. The bill also requires each community college campus, by July 1, 2024, to incorporate the common course numbers from the adopted system into its course catalog. The bill requires the common course numbering system to be student facing and ensure that comparable courses across all community colleges have the same course number.

The 2021–22 Enacted State Budget includes \$10 million (one-time) for the CCCCCO to allocate to a CCD to establish a workgroup that supports the development and implementation of a common course numbering system, which the Senate Appropriations Committee predicts should be sufficient to meet the bill's requirements within the prescribed timeframe.

#### Other Noteworthy Bills

In addition to the bills signed at the ceremony yesterday, Governor Newsom also signed a slew of other higher education measures, including the following with implications for community colleges:

- AB 245 requires a campus of the CCC, CSU, or UC to update a former student's records to include the student's updated legal name or gender if they receive government-issued documentation showing the student's legal name or gender has changed
- AB 275 reduces the probation period for classified community college employees in nonmerit districts from one year to six months or 130 days of paid service
- AB 417 authorizes the CCCCCO to establish a grant program within community colleges to provide additional funds for services in support of postsecondary education for formerly and currently incarcerated students
- AB 1113 prohibits the CCC, CSU, and UC from collecting mandatory system-wide tuition and fees from any qualifying surviving spouse or surviving child of a frontline worker who died of COVID-19
- AB 1326 requires a county human services agency to designate one employee as a staff liaison to serve as a contact for academic counselors and other professional staff at a campus of a higher education within the county
- Senate Bill 330 requires the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) to develop a pilot program to provide affordable housing to students or employees of LACCD

#### Bill Effective Dates and Next Steps

All of the bills that are highlighted above go into effect beginning January 1, 2022.

While Governor Newsom signed the bulk of community college bills yesterday, there are still a number of significant measures he has not taken action on. He has until this Sunday, October 10, 2021, to consider legislation.

