



NEWS

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | **E-Mail:** agarten@elcamino.edu

For Immediate Release

October 20, 2010

El Camino College Students to See Increased Access to Transferring to California State University System

El Camino College students will be among the tens of thousands of students statewide to benefit from a new streamlined process to transfer to the California State University system. Senate Bill 1440, also known as the Student Transfer Achievement Act, was recently signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger and is designed to simplify the transfer process between the California Community Colleges and California State University systems, while establishing a transfer degree from community colleges.

The statute goes into effect in fall 2011 and establishes a transfer associate degree for those students who have completed 60 transferrable units that include general education and major preparation courses. Community college students who obtain the associate degree designated for transfer will be admitted to the CSU with junior standing.

At El Camino College, preparation for the university level is always a main focus, so this new initiative fits in with the college's efforts to help students achieve their academic goals. It can offer students another transfer path, and another way to help them achieve after they graduate from ECC.

"We as counselors always guide and encourage students to strive to be as well prepared as possible by completing as many requirements as they can at ECC and earn competitive grades," said Sue Oda Omori, ECC Transfer Center Coordinator. "We are there to help through the whole process, from ECC, all the way through entry to a CSU or any university campus."

A joint task force has been established between the California State University and the California Community Colleges to implement the Student Transfer Achievement Act, co-chaired by Ephraim Smith, CSU executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer and Erik Skinner, executive vice chancellor for programs at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. The group will work to ensure coordination between the CSU system and California Community Colleges for a smooth implementation process, and may also make recommendations for further legislation, regulatory changes or other policy changes.

The statute also predicts considerable cost savings – to students and the state. When courses do not transfer from a community college to a four-year institution, students lose valuable time and money while taxpayers waste a significant amount of resources. The increased efficiency is estimated to generate approximately \$160 million annually in cost savings. The savings will be

used to provide access to roughly 40,000 additional community college students and nearly 14,000 California State University students each year.

According to a report from the California Legislative Analyst's Office, community college students transferring to a California State University graduated with an average of 162 units when the minimum requirement is 120 units. A new study by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office finds roughly 50,000 community college students transfer annually to the California State University system. They do so with an average of 80 semester units when only 60 semester units are required. Similarly, when these students arrive at the California State University, they take excess units to make up for courses that did not transfer from their community college.

"Students attending our colleges often express concerns about the complex and confusing transfer process," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott.

"This transfer initiative will put an end to the confusion and serve as a student passport to the California State University system. The reform measure will provide great savings for students in that it will save them time and money. It will provide great savings for the state in that we can educate more students for the same amount of money. This is a nationwide imperative. We have got to produce more college graduates by 2020 as part of President Obama's goal to make the United States the most educated workforce in the world once again."

#