

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES



FOCUSED ON STUDENT SUCCESS

COVER IMAGE: CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO



California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
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Sacramento, CA 95811
CaliforniaCommunityColleges.cccco.edu



CITRUS COLLEGE

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

If corrective action isn't taken now, California's workforce will have a shortage of one million college educated workers by 2025, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

Our 112 community colleges are working to improve both access and success so students and our state can thrive.

In January 2011, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors formed a task force to chart a roadmap for system-wide focus on student success. The task force identified best practices and designed evidence-based recommendations to ensure student success is a driving theme in our colleges.

This comprehensive plan, known as the Student Success Initiative, focuses on our core missions of workforce preparation, remediation, transfer to four-year colleges and universities, and degree and certificate completion. The initiative is transforming our community colleges and helping more students from all backgrounds achieve their educational goals.

Five key improvements encourage students to embark on pathways of success, make higher education more accessible and transparent, and provide students with valuable information to help them choose career and educational goals while succeeding in their classes and staying on track.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

PRIORITY ENROLLMENT
AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS

1

REDESIGNED STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

2

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

3

STREAMLINED TRANSFER

4

IMPROVING BASIC SKILLS INSTRUCTION

5



PRIORITY ENROLLMENT AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS

1

Enrollment priority changes emphasize the importance of goal-oriented education and reward students who are on a clear path toward earning a certificate or degree, or transferring to a four-year institution. In the past, enrollment priority was set locally and tended to reward students based on their number of accumulated credits. Priority is now awarded to current students who are in good academic standing and have accumulated fewer than 100 degree applicable units and to new students who attend college orientation, complete the assessment process and develop an education plan. Students who are working toward academic or career goals will be rewarded for their efforts. For more information go to stepforward.cccco.edu.

Changes are also being made to the Board of Governors Fee Waiver program. The new policy takes effect in fall 2016 and requires students to meet minimum academic and progress standards to remain eligible for financial assistance.



CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO

2

REDESIGNED STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The California Legislature and Gov. Jerry Brown are key partners in the Student Success Initiative. Senate Bill 1456 (Lowenthal) redesigned the way funding for student support services is used in order to focus on students at the front-end of their educational experience to help them reach their goals. The legislation resulted in stronger support for orientation, assessment and placement, counseling and educational planning services and academic interventions to help students stay on track. Students also have to declare a course of study early in their academic careers, a practice that evidence shows increases student success. For more information go to the home page of the Chancellor's Office website at CaliforniaCommunityColleges.cccco.edu and click on the Student Success Initiative link.



TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

3

The new web-based Student Success Scorecard enables users to track outcomes such as certificate and degree attainment, transfer rates and persistence rates. The scorecard represents an unprecedented level of transparency and accountability, making it clear how well colleges are doing in areas such as remedial instruction, retention of students, completion rates and job training programs. And because data is reported by age, gender and ethnicity, we can also better determine if our colleges are narrowing achievement gaps and fulfilling our goal of helping all students succeed. For more information go to scorecard.cccco.edu.

Another online tool, Salary Surfer, enables students to compare the earnings of recent graduates in 179 program areas. This interactive tool provides students with an estimate of what they could earn two years and five years after receiving their certificate or degree in disciplines such as health, business, architecture, social sciences and engineering. Armed with this information, students and their families can make informed decisions about their future goals. For more information go to salarysurfer.cccco.edu.



LOS ANGELES PIERCE COLLEGE

4

STREAMLINED TRANSFER

The new Associate Degree for Transfer program from the California Community Colleges and California State University (CSU) makes it easier for students to transfer between the two systems. For the first time in California, community college students who complete a new Associate of Arts for Transfer (AA-T) or Associate of Science for Transfer (AS-T) degree are guaranteed admission to the CSU system.

Through the new program, students who complete an AA-T or AS-T will be given a GPA advantage when applying to CSU impacted campuses or majors. Students with an AA-T or AS-T enter the CSU system with junior standing. Students who are admitted to a program that has been deemed similar need only 60 more semester units (or 90 quarter units) to complete a bachelor's degree. The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office has already approved nearly 1,400 of these transfer degrees offered at the state's 112 community colleges. For more information go to adegreewithaguarantee.com.



FOLSOM LAKE COLLEGE

IMPROVING BASIC SKILLS INSTRUCTION

5

The California Community Colleges educate approximately 2.1 million students each year with more than 70 percent of first-time entering students requiring at least one pre-transfer level mathematics, English or ESL course. Without these foundation competencies in place, the majority of our students would lack the skills necessary to succeed in the pursuit of their academic and career goals. The Basic Skills Initiative, born of the California Community Colleges System Strategic Plan in 2005, works to address the basic skills needs of our students by exploring alternative approaches to this essential component of education. The result is an overview of effective practices in basic skills instruction which highlights models and strategies being utilized across California and the nation. This report describes a broad range of approaches to help our colleges bridge educational gaps and set our students up for success.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL

The Student Success Initiative includes a host of additional steps that will help students succeed in greater numbers, including:



Closer collaboration with K-12 to increase college and career readiness



Better assessment of incoming students so they are placed in the appropriate courses



Establishment of state and local goals for improving student success



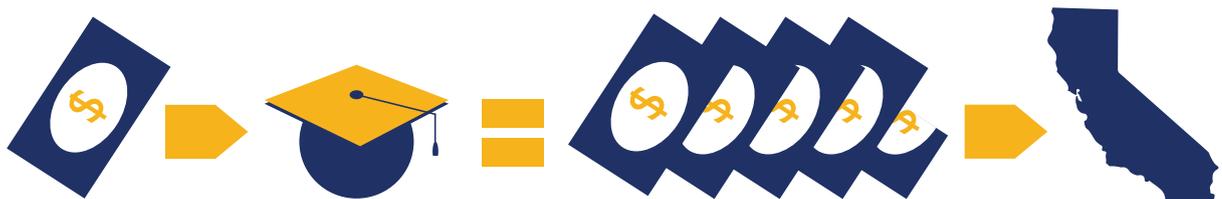
Promotion of full-time college attendance where possible (full-time students succeed at higher rates)



Better alignment of course offerings and schedules based on students' needs

HIGH RETURN

The California Community Colleges system plays an important role in boosting our state's economy. Students who earn a degree or certificate from a California community college nearly double their earnings within three years. And students aren't the only ones who benefit. In 2012, UC Berkeley researchers concluded that **every dollar invested in producing a college graduate generates four dollars and fifty cents in additional revenue for the state.** Clearly, community colleges are good for students and the state's economy so it is vital that our system continues its important work to restore access and improve the success rates of our students.



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES BOARD OF GOVERNORS



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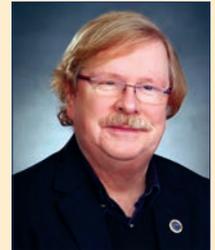
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STUDENT SUCCESS TASK FORCE TIMELINE

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Implementation of statewide priority registration system that is tied to assessment, orientation and education plan development to increase student success rates. Launch Step: Forward priority registration website for students.

2014

JANUARY

California Community Colleges Board of Governors approves changes to fee waiver provisions.

NOVEMBER

California Community Colleges Board of Governors supports Student Success Initiative with technology investments.

JUNE

Salary Surfer website released.



APRIL

Student Success Scorecard website released.

2013



SEPTEMBER

Gov. Brown signs the Student Success Act of 2012 into law, ushering in improvements at California community colleges.

SEPTEMBER

California Community Colleges Board of Governors approves system-wide enrollment priorities to increase student success.

JANUARY

California Community Colleges Board of Governors approves Student Success Task Force recommendations.

2012

OCTOBER

Draft recommendations of the Student Success Task Force published. Statewide town hall meetings held.

AUGUST

California Community Colleges and California State University begin offering Associate Degrees for Transfer.



JANUARY

The California Community Colleges Board of Governors forms a task force to boost completion rates over next decade.

2011



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