



**ENHANCING STUDENT TRANSFER—  
A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CALIFORNIA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

The California Master Plan for Higher Education establishes transfer as a priority for California's colleges and universities and emphasizes that this function is a shared responsibility of the State's public postsecondary higher education institutions.

The California Community Colleges (CCC) and the University of California (UC) recognize student transfer from community colleges to public universities as central to providing accessibility to a baccalaureate education for the citizens of California. This Memorandum of Understanding ("Agreement") initiates an effort to guarantee admissions to all qualifying California Community College transfer students to the University of California. These efforts will also continue to streamline the transfer process for students and strengthen the transfer pipeline, resulting in more CCC students who are academically prepared and provided the opportunity to transfer to UC and ultimately earn a UC baccalaureate degree.

This Agreement has historical precedent and is designed to build on current collaborative efforts. In 1996, UC and the CCC Chancellor's Office entered into an MOU to increase the enrollment of CCC students at UC. During the period of this agreement (1997—2004), UC increased its enrollment of CCC students by over 50 percent (exceeding the initial goal by 15 percentage points). The proportion of students from underrepresented groups who enrolled as transfers at UC *exceeded* that of freshman applicants for the first time in the institution's history.

Moreover, from Fall 2013 to Fall 2017, UC increased its enrollment of transfer students by 20%, with an all-time high transfer enrollment of 20,000 in Fall 2017.

More recently, the CCC's *Student Success Initiative* and its recently released *Vision for Success* report show a segment focused on strengthening its traditional mission of access and completion for all students. UC's Transfer Action Team strategic plan—*Preparing California for its Future*—has been institutionally transformational, resulting in a number of pivotal changes to strengthen transfer, including the creation of UC's Transfer Pathways.

## *CCC-UC Transfer Agreement – Enhancing Student Transfer*

The challenge today, however, is more formidable than before—and requires collective solutions and support. Increasing transfer rates have never been more important for the State’s economy. The changing face of the California populace requires a renewed commitment to higher education in ways that advantage students who wish to begin their educational journey at a community college.

The goal of this Agreement is two-fold: increasing inclusive access to a four-year college degree at UC for CCC students and ensuring their academic preparation and support to succeed and earn their degrees in a timely manner. First, it provides a clear pathway for CCC students who wish to transfer to UC, guaranteeing these students an opportunity to obtain a baccalaureate degree if they meet clearly articulated requirements. Second, it aims to ensure that once at UC, these students have taken the courses and met the requirements deemed by the University’s faculty to best prepare them to succeed and earn their four-year degree.

Increasing the number and diversity of students attending a CCC who prepare for and transfer to a UC campus is a strategic priority for the state and the University. For a transfer-affirming culture to flourish, the response of both segments must be a strategic, long-term initiative that will achieve what has always been the goal of California’s investment in public higher education: a high-quality, low-cost, postsecondary system that provides access that is inclusive of all Californians who wish to pursue a four-year degree and the associated academic challenges—and discover the educationally transformative qualities of—a four-year college degree.

This Agreement outlines a series of mutual activities to be conducted by the California Community Colleges and the University of California to strengthen the transfer pipeline to UC and guarantee admissions to the UC system for all qualifying CCC students. Understanding that each segment has a key responsibility—CCCs in preparing and supporting students for transfer and UC in admitting qualified applicants to its campuses in a manner that best supports their eventual success—this Agreement’s theory of action focuses on the collective expertise and dedication of leaders of both segments to increase the transfer rate and the number of CCC students who earn a baccalaureate degree.

In addition, in 2010 SB 1440 established the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) between the CCC and the CSU. In 2015, in an effort to streamline the transfer path for CCC (and other transfer) students, UC developed its Transfer Pathways that established a set of courses – or “pathway” – for each of the 21 most popular majors at UC whereby a student who took the courses and achieved a certain GPA would have met the requirements for that major at any UC campus. In developing these pathways, the UC faculty started with the relevant ADT and in all cases where ADT preparation was appropriate for UC, the Pathways were modeled on the ADT requirements. If UC develops additional new Transfer Pathways, UC shall again start with the relevant ADTs as the model.

Once executed, this Agreement will further the goals envisioned in the California Master Plan for Higher Education.

**COLLECTIVE ACTION**

**1. UC President’s Request to UC Academic Senate for a Guarantee of Admissions to UC for All Qualified CCC Students**

The President of the University of California shall request of the UC Academic Senate their recommendations for extending a guarantee of admission to all qualified California Community College transfer students with such guarantee to be in place for students entering the CCCs in Fall 2019. This guarantee does not displace or supplant any existing campus-based admissions guarantees (such as the existing Transfer Admission Guarantees, or TAGs) but is intended to be additive.

Should the guarantee of admission result in increased transfer enrollment at UC, the UC and CCC leadership will together seek additional enrollment funding from the State—a pre-requisite for transfer students’ success at the University.

- A. Such a guarantee should use as its basis the 21 UC Transfer Pathways so that UC would guarantee admission to CCC students who successfully complete one of the 21 Pathways, along with obtaining the requisite GPA as determined by the UC Academic Senate, to a place in the UC system.

UC will also admit all California resident applicants from CCCs who are qualified for transfer admission at the junior level in one or more of the following ways:

- B. Where the California Community College Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) equates to or exceeds the major preparation required in a UC Transfer Pathway for the same major, as determined by the UC Academic Senate, in consultation with the CCC Academic Senate, it will be accepted in lieu of a Pathway for purposes of the guarantee as described in Section A.
- C. In addition, UC will continue to guarantee admission to a campus and a major to all students who apply for and meet all requirements for a Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) at participating UC campuses. The TAG program, currently available at six UC campuses, now constitutes one-third of UC’s entering transfer class. The UC Academic Senate is also called on to review, in concert with campus leadership and faculty, all aspects of current TAG agreements, including whether the requirements for a TAG continue to serve students well and provide for inclusive access. The Academic Senate will also consider various modifications or enhancements, for instance, by expanding TAGs in non-impacted majors at the three UC undergraduate campuses that currently do not offer them or by offering new agreements for any majors not currently participating on the other six campuses. Finally, the UC Academic Senate, in concert with campus leadership and faculty, will recommend whether students may have more than one TAG for purposes of facilitating transfer, removing the current restriction to

one TAG per student.

- D. UC will include every student who is otherwise qualified for admission but not selected to the campuses to which he or she applied in a Systemwide Transfer Guarantee Pool where he or she will be offered a place at another campus that has space in the student's major or related program of study.
- E. The UC Transfer Pathways solve the problem of preparing for applying to multiple campuses, but they do not confer a degree. Recognizing that an associate degree is a significant milestone valued by students and their families, which also helps with students' academic planning as they progress toward a bachelor's degree, the UC Academic Senate will continue to work with the CCC Academic Senate to develop associate degrees based on the UC Transfer Pathway requirements that will aim to adhere to the 60 unit maximum at both institutions where possible.
- F. Finally, as part of its delegated authority to formulate and monitor admissions policy and outcomes, the UC Academic Senate (through its Board Of Admissions and Relations with Schools committee, or BOARS) shall include data on the campuses' experience with guarantees in annual reports to the UC Board of Regents. This report will also be shared with the CCC Chancellor, Board of Governors, and Academic Senate. Based on the outcomes over time, refinements that preserve the broad provisions in this agreement but better address its goals would be considered to be within the scope of the agreement in consultation with the Chancellor's Office, the UC Academic Senate, the CCC Academic Senate and the UC Office of the President.

## **2. Advancing Transfer Student Academic Preparation**

Many UC majors are among the most academically rigorous and sought after in the nation, and students need to be well prepared for this challenge, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds and from low college-sending communities. Data reveal that CCC students can and will meet this exacting challenge if properly supported. The CCCCO and UCOP will develop and support CCC–UC campus partnerships that prepare students academically for transfer to UC. These partnerships will include, but not be limited to, UC campus summer experience programs for prospective CCC transfer students and summer bridge programs for newly admitted CCC transfers, additional academic advising appointments for current CCC students, organized UC campus tours for CCC students, and enhanced online transfer resources.

Proper and adequate support for students who transfer from CCC to UC will require additional resources. UC and CCC leadership will determine if additional resources are needed by the UC and CCC systems, identify the resources available at each system, and work together to secure any identified additional resources required.

### **3. Highlighting Access, Affordability, and a Professional Calling**

The California Community College Chancellor’s Office and the UC Office of the President will develop joint messages designed for all students attending a CCC about the value and benefits associated with preparing for transfer to a UC campus. These communications will be targeted in their messaging to the general CCC student population, as well as particular student subgroups (e.g., low-income, first-generation, historically underrepresented, disabled, current/former foster youth, and current/former military students) and CCCs with historically low rates of students transferring to UC.

### **4. Serving the Professionals Who Serve Students**

Teaching instructors, counseling faculty, and transfer advisors are key influencers helping students to prepare for transfer. UC will offer targeted professional development for CCC counselors and advisers, especially for those working with targeted populations identified in Section 2 above. Offerings include enhanced Ensuring Transfer Success (ETS) spring transfer counselor conferences, monthly professional development webinars focusing on time-relevant CCC–UC transfer topics (e.g., UC major requirement changes, profiles of previous UC fall applicant pools), and regional summits to discuss CCC–UC programmatic goals, hurdles, and solutions. Clear communications about the Pathways and the guarantees UC will provide are an essential part of providing support to CCC advising staff.

UC and CCC leadership will identify what additional resources are needed to support the added counseling and advising services, and work together to secure those resources.

### **5. Coordinating Transfer Policy to Serve Students**

The CCCCO and UC will develop coordinated transfer policies and practices that provide prospective transfer students with information and advising that help to minimize challenges in the transfer process, especially at those CCCs that have historically sent low numbers of students on to four-year higher education institutions.

### **6. Building a Transfer-Affirming Culture and Research Agenda**

The CCC and UC will jointly employ data-analytic and data sharing techniques to develop strategies toward the identification of likely “UC transfer-ready” students in the CCCs. CCC and UC will collect and share data for communicating with potential transfer students in the pursuit of monitoring and evaluating the usefulness and inclusivity of agreed upon transfer activities and student progress toward the baccalaureate degree. This data sharing will directly help CCC and UC better tailor information, services, and resources to students with transfer aims.

### IMPLEMENTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The CCC and UC recognize that additional resources will be needed to fully realize the goals and activities specified in this Agreement. Further, it takes time to build relationships at the CCCs, and sustained presence “on the ground” at the CCC is necessary to build the strongest possible pipeline that will generate transfer applicants for UC long into the future. **The leadership of the two segments will work together to identify and secure the necessary resources.**

Further, UCOP and the CCCCCO will convene a task force consisting of senior leadership as well as campus administrators, Academic Senate representatives, and students to monitor implementation of the provisions of this Agreement and to assess progress and effectiveness of activities. This task force will provide a report to the Chairs of the UC and CCC governing boards and undersigned system leaders that includes, but is not limited to, the number of transfers, major, accumulated units, time to degree, transferring and receiving institutions, and student demographic information (ethnicity, age, gender, etc.).

### TIMELINE AND GOALS

This Agreement, to be initiated immediately, will culminate at the end of the academic year 2021-22. During this time, the CCCs will increase the number of students who are fully prepared for transfer to the UC system. For its part, the University of California will admit sufficient numbers of CCC students such that the UC system will enroll at least one transfer student for every two first-year students and guarantee admission to the UC system for all qualifying CCC students per Section 1. The UC Academic Senate (through BOARS) and as part of its delegated authority to formulate and monitor admissions policy and outcomes, working with the UC campuses and the California Community Colleges, including the CCC Academic Senate, has been requested to develop proposals to facilitate transfer and transfer preparation so that the guarantees are fully in place for students starting their CCC education in the fall of 2019. That process is requested to begin immediately, guided by recommendations from BOARS, with most of the individual-campus efforts occurring in Fall 2018. Any guarantees of admission that are available before they would be exercised by the class entering the CCCs in Fall 2019, for students who are already following the Transfer Pathway recommendations, will be implemented as soon as they are available.

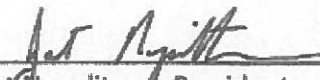
**SIGNATURE AGREEMENTS**



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Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor  
California Community Colleges

4/10/18

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Date



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Janet Napolitano, President  
University of California

4-9-18

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Date