

Associate Degrees for Transfer Frequently Asked Questions

AA-T and AS-T are acronyms for Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees that are designed specifically for transfer to the California State University system. The degrees are the results of Senate Bill 1440, a transfer bill that required the California Community Colleges to offer associate degrees for transfer in many of the most popular majors, and for the CSU to provide priority admission to California Community College students who have earned an AA-T or AS-T degree. These degrees can be completed in 60 transferable semester units (or 90 quarter units) and include coursework in general education, major preparation, and electives.

Students completing an AA-T or AS-T degree receive priority admission to the CSU system. Students who have completed an AA-T or AS-T degree and are admitted to a CSU campus are guaranteed admission at junior standing, and the opportunity to complete a baccalaureate degree with 60 additional semester (or 90 quarter) units. AA-T and AS-T degrees are recognized by both the California Community College and CSU systems as a measure of preparation and readiness for transfer to upper-division course work at the CSU. Students should check with a counselor to see if their major is deemed similar at the CSU campuses they plan to apply to.

This program guarantees that students who earn an AA-T or AS-T degree from a California Community College will be admitted to a CSU campus. The campus you will be admitted to depends on several factors, such as the location of your community college, the program of study that a student intends to follow, and a student's competitiveness for admission. The program also guarantees a student will enter the CSU system at junior standing, and only need to complete 60 additional semester units (or 90 quarter units) to earn a bachelor's degree in a CSU program that has been deemed as similar.

Besides the benefit of completing community college coursework with an associate degree in hand, this program also provides students with the necessary preparation to transfer to the CSU system and complete a baccalaureate degree. Students with an AA-T or AS-T degree receive admission priority and guaranteed admission with junior status to the CSU system, along with the ability to complete a baccalaureate degree with only 60 additional semester units (or 90 quarter units) in a degree program that has been deemed similar.

Community college students should work with a counselor to develop an academic plan that includes the specific course requirements for their degree goals. In general, a student will be required to complete 60 transferable semester units (or 90 quarter units), which includes coursework in general education, major preparation, and elective courses. Students may complete either the CSU GE or IGETC general education pattern. Effective fall 2017, CSU GE Areas A1, A2, A3 and B4 must be completed with a grade of "C-" or higher per CSU EO 1100. All courses applied toward IGETC must be completed with a "C" or higher per the IGETC Standards. In some cases, the statewide Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) template may limit the general education plan option. For example, the Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science ADT's require completion of CSU GE for STEM or IGETC for STEM.

Note: CSU IGETC is not mandated per Senate Bill 1440, so students may be IGETC for UC certified without completion of Area 1C, Oral Communication. Students following this pattern should be advised that Oral Communication (IGETC 1C) is a CSU Admission Requirement. Students may be awarded an ADT degree using IGETC for UC. However, they will not be eligible for admission to a CSU campus without the 1C Oral Communication requirement.