Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (SB 1440)

What SB 1440 means for Santa Monica College

The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (Senate Bill 1440, now codified in California Education Code sections 66746-66749) was signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger on September 29, 2010. The Curriculum Committee spent much time on the issues surrounding the meaning, potential impact, and implementation of this in regards to the SMC curriculum and our students.

The Curriculum Committee’s interpretation of SB1440 is to facilitate transfer for students by creating Associate Degrees for Transfer (AA-T and AS-T) which indicate a completion of the lower division requirements for a major/area of emphasis. We do not see these degrees as “terminal” or “stand alone” Associate Degrees, as SMC’s other degrees should be seen.

In constructing SMC’s Associate for Transfer degrees, we looked at the lower division major requirements of all CSU campuses, in particular those of CSUN, CSULA, and CSUDH (which are the SB1440 relevant “local CSU” and the destinations of over 85% of our CSU transfers).

The Curriculum Committee’s position is that our Associate for Transfer Degrees should not require more lower division coursework in the major/area of emphasis than is required by the CSU.

Several SMC faculty members provided feedback in the construction phase of the Transfer Model Curriculums (TMC) for various disciplines. Additional participation and advocacy on statewide and local committees has been done by Dan Nannini (Statewide Implementation Committee), Eric Oifer (Academic Senate Area meetings and statewide plenary), Estela Narrie (Region 7 Articulation Officers) and Guido Davis Del Piccolo (Faculty Discipline Review Group, Sociology) to name a few.

Mathematics AS-T

The discipline faculty and the Curriculum Committee approved a Mathematics AS-T based on the TMC. This degree has been approved by the CCCC.
Sociology AA-T in (Region 7 Alternatives to the TMC)
The discipline faculty and the Curriculum Committee were disappointed with the finalized TMCs in Psychology and Sociology as they each required lower division coursework in the discipline that is not required by the CSU. Therefore, in conjunction with the our Region 7 transfer destinations (CSUN, CSULA, and CSUDH) and other Region 7 Community Colleges (LACCD, Glendale, Pasadena, El Camino), we developed a "Region 7 Sociology AA-T" and "Region 7 Psychology AA-T" which require only the lower division courses in the discipline required by the CSU. The Region 7 CSUs agreed, in writing, to accept our Region 7 Sociology AA-T and our Region 7 Psychology AA-T (forthcoming) as they have agreed to accept the AA-Ts based on the TMCs. The Sociology AA-T has been submitted for approval to the CCCCO.

AS-T in Chemistry and AA-T in Political Science
The discipline faculty and the Curriculum Committee have also approved a Chemistry AS-T (based on the TMC) and a Political Science AA-T (not based on the TMC).

Local Requirements (Global Citizenship) and SB 1440
Associate Degrees for Transfer must be free of any “Local Graduation Requirements”. Therefore, SMC’s Global Citizenship Degree Requirement does not apply to any Associate Degree for Transfer. However, the Global Citizenship requirement continues to apply to all other Associate Degrees.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Bridging the disciplines: Transfer and CTE
In the area of Career Technical Education (CTE), the Curriculum Committee did a significant amount of work developing and revising curriculum as well as helping to create a bridge between our traditionally “transfer-focused” areas and our “vocationally-focused” areas. This bridging is most apparent in the development of our Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) curriculum and our Recycling and Resource Management program (RRM).

Medical Laboratory Technician (Life Science)
Acting as the lead faculty member from SMC, Valarie Narey worked in conjunction with local area hospitals to develop 4 courses (16 units) for a forthcoming Medical Laboratory Technician degree and certificate. This program represents a valuable bridge between our traditionally transfer-oriented Life Science faculty and curriculum and a new CTE opportunity. The four courses include:
- MLT 1: “Introduction to Clinical Laboratory Profession” (1 unit, CSU)
- MLT 2: “Hematology, Coagulation, Urine and Body Fluid Analysis” (5 units, CSU)
- MLT 3: “Blood Banking and Immunology” (5 units, CSU)
- MLT 4: “Clinical Chemistry” (5 units, CSU)
Recycling and Resource Management (Earth Science)

Another bridging was accomplished through the work of our Earth Science department, led by Vicki Drake, and our Sustainability Coordinator, Genevieve Bertone. In collaborating with faculty at Irvine Valley College and Golden West College, as well as industry partners, we designed an Associate Degree and Certificate of Achievement in Recycling and Resource Management. This is part of a major Community-Based Job Training Grant by the Department of Labor involving emerging “green occupations” and it is meant to become a national model for a credit-based certification program. The program also reflects our general commitment to environmental and ecological responsibility. The new core courses in this program are:

- RRM 1: “Introduction to Resource Management” (CSU; Global Citizenship)
- RRM 2: “Culture and Zero Waste” (CSU)
- RRM 3: “Resource Management and Zero Waste for Communities” (CSU)

Also noteworthy in this regard is a change the Curriculum Committee made to our Ecological Literacy category of the Global Citizenship Degree Requirement. We have added a 4th option (practical application of environmental technologies) through which a course may qualify for the Global Citizenship designation. As a result of this change, RRM 1 was approved as a course which can satisfy the Global Citizenship requirement.

Keeping up with Technological Changes

The Curriculum Committee approved some significant revisions in our Animation Certificate of Achievement and Degree as well as new Department Certificates in the area of Entertainment Technology. New courses developed in this area include:

- ET 17: “Advanced 3D Level Design” (CSU)
- ET 25C: “3D Rigging” (CSU)
- ET 26: “3D Rendering” (CSU)

Course revisions include:

- ET 13: “2D Game Prototyping” (formerly “Game Prototyping”)
- ET 15: “Beginning 3D Level Design” (formerly 3D Game Prototyping)
- ET 18: “Advanced 2D Animation” (formerly “2D Animation II”)
- ET 19A: “Beginning 2D Animation” (formerly “2D Animation I”)
- ET 19B: “Beginning 2D Animation” (formerly “2D Animation II”)
- ET 23: “2D Character Animation” (formerly “Character Animation”)
- ET 25: “3D Modeling” (formerly “3D Modeling and Rigging”)
- ET 72: “Career Development” (formerly “Career Exploration”)

New/Revised Department Certificates:

- 2D Animation (new)
- 3D Animation (new)
- 3D Modeling (new)
- 3D Rendering (new)
- Game Design (revised)

In addition the CSIS department developed two new courses which will give students important skills related to development for mobile devices.

- CIS 65: “Flash Catalyst” (CSU)
- CS 86: “Android Development” (CSU)
Revised Business Certificates
The discipline faculty of Business brought forward revisions to many of the Business Degrees and Certificates of Achievement. The revisions involved making the “core” of each more relevant to the area of study. The following Certificates and/or Degrees were revised:

- Business Administration (Associate Degree)
- Entrepreneurship (Certificate of Achievement)
- International Business (Certificate of Achievement)
- Logistics (Certificate of Achievement & Associate Degree)
- Management/Leadership (Certificate of Achievement & Associate Degree)
- Marketing (Certificate of Achievement)
- Merchandising (Certificate of Achievement & Associate Degree)

Coaching Certificate
The Kinesiology/Physical Education faculty took proactive measures to reshape the field’s curriculum in the face of potential apportionment reductions from the state for “activity courses” and created a new Athletic Coaching Certificate. This Certificate will be presented to the Los Angeles/Orange County Workforce Development Leaders (LOWDL) in the next cycle. As part of this certificate, three new courses were also created:

- Kinesiology Professional Course 7: “Coaching of Soccer” (UC-pending/CSU)
- Kinesiology Professional Course 8: “Coaching of Basketball” (UC-pending/CSU)
- Kinesiology Professional Course 9: “Coaching of Volleyball” (UC-pending/CSU)

Broadcasting: Promo Pathways
The Promo Pathway program (not yet approved) developed out of a partnership between SMC’s Communication Department, led by Frank Dawson, and the South Bay Center for Counseling. The program is the first of its kind in the nation. It has sparked innovation and course development in Broadcasting leading to two new courses:

- Broadcasting 20: “Introduction to Writing and Producing Short-Form Media” (CSU)
- Broadcasting 21: “Short-Form Visual Media Production” (CSU)

Revised Journalism Associate Degree and Certificate
The discipline faculty of Communications brought forward revisions to the Journalism Degree and Certificate of Achievement. The revisions involved “modernizing” the area of emphasis given the expansion of online experiences.

- Journalism (Certificate of Achievement & Associate Degree) (revised)
NEW PROGRAMS, IDEAS, APPROACHES, & COURSES

Public Policy: New Program
Through the efforts of an interdisciplinary team of faculty led by Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, SMC’s Public Policy AA and Certificate of Achievement were developed. This academic outcome of the Public Policy Institute represents a local interest and need, while simultaneously preparing students well for transfer into fields related to Public Policy. Central to this new program are two new courses:
- Political Science 31: “Introduction to Public Policy” (UC & IGETC-pending/CSU)
- Political Science 95: “Public Policy—Experiential Learning” (UC-pending/CSU)

English Basic Skills: New Idea
As a result of unrelenting research and efforts by both the Basic Skills Committee and the English Department faculty, a new approach will be launched in the hopes of streamlining the pathway from "C-level English" to “transfer level English”. English 85 (C-level) is a new 5-unit course combining both reading and writing. English 20 (B-level) is also 5-units and has a similar joining of reading and writing. It is hoped that as a result of these two new courses, students will move from the C-level to English 1 in a more speedy and successful manner. The success of combining reading and writing has been demonstrated through the experimental efforts of faculty member Ed Markarian. The new courses are:
- English 85: “Reading and Writing 1” (intended to replace ENGL 81A & 83A)
- English 20: “Reading and Writing 2” (intended to replace ENGL 21A & 22)

Emeritus: New Approach
The Curriculum Committee approved 10 New Noncredit Courses for the Emeritus College. Being proactive in a climate of potential reduced apportionment for “activity courses”, the Emeritus College (through the work of Ron Furuyama and Erica LeBlanc) revised the curriculum of several of our more popular Emeritus courses to demonstrate their academic basis and importance in the area of health and safety. All of the courses submitted have been approved by the CCCCO. One additional course will be submitted for approval this summer.
- Health E30: “Fall Prevention for Older Adults” (CCCCO approved)
- Health E34: “Stress Reduction for Older Adults” (CCCCO approved)
- Health E38: “Joint Health and Mobility for Older Adults” (CCCCO approved)
- Health E63: “Stroke Recovery for Older Adults” (CCCCO approved)
- Health E21: “Yoga Health and Safety Principles and Practices for Older Adults” (CCCCO approved)
- Health E22: “Chi Gong Health and Safety Principles and Practices for Older Adults” (CCCCO approved)
- Health E23: “T’ai Chi Health and Safety Principles and Practices for Older Adults” (CCCCO approved)
- Health E24: “Physical Fitness Principles and Practices for Older Adults” (CCCCO approved)
• Health E25: “Strength and Stamina Training Principles and Practices for Older Adults” (CCCO approved)
• Human Development E26: “Healthy Aging for Older Adults” (to be submitted to the CCCCO after Board approval)

New Courses
In addition to those previously mentioned, the Curriculum Committee approved the following new courses:
• Dance 75 / ECE 75: “Dance for Children: Creative Dance in the Pre-K and Elementary Classroom” (CSU)
• Energy 02: “Residential Building Science” (CSU)
• Film 33: “Directing the Short Film” (UC-pending/CSU)
• Philosophy 20 / Environmental Studies 20: “Environmental Ethics” (UC & IGETC-pending/CSU; Global Citizenship)
• Psychology 40 / Environmental Studies 40: “Environmental Psychology” (UC/CSU; IGETC/CSUGE-pending; Global Citizenship)
• Turkish 1: “Elementary Turkish” (UC/CSU; IGETC/CSUGE)

PROGRAM REVIEW

The Curriculum Committee reviewed the revisions/updates submitted by the Departments who went through the Program Review process. Most of our departments did an outstanding job in updating their curriculum. These departments include:
• Earth Science
• English
• Mathematics

The ESL and CSIS Departments should also be recognized for their diligence in maintaining up-to-date curriculums.
A LOOK AHEAD

- We have submitted the following degrees and certificates to the CCCCO and are awaiting final approval:
  - Global Studies (Certificate of Achievement and Associate Degree)
  - Public Policy (Certificate of Achievement and Associate Degree)

- We have been working with CurricUNET to prepare for full implementation of the online program sometime in the Fall of 2011.

- We expect more developments surrounding SB 1440.

- We will be exploring the ramifications of relying solely on “content review” as an option in the justification of prerequisites.

- We expect to continue our work with the Emeritus College in the hopes of preserving this valuable service to our community.

- We hope to continue our “pro-active” approach toward curriculum as well as promoting and facilitating a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to our work.