

## **Key Points: Assembly Bill 928**

*Updated May 2023*

### **Summary:**

Authored by Assemblymember Marc Berman and approved in 2021, Assembly Bill 928 simplifies the pathway to a four-year degree for California's community college students by creating a singular lower-division GE pattern for both CSU and UC transfer admissions, called Cal-GETC. This singular pattern has been approved by all three higher education segments. The CSU must now determine whether it will adopt Cal-GETC as its single GE pattern, or continue to offer CSU GE Breadth for incoming freshmen.

### **Key Points:**

#### *Bill Basics*

- Written in response to student feedback that the transfer process is “unnecessarily complex, confusing and difficult to navigate,” AB 928 is meant to support student success and equity, helping to ease access, simplify advisement across segments, eliminate barriers and carve a clear path to a four-year degree.
- The bill also requires that community colleges place incoming student on an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) pathway, if one exists for their major.
- The bill became state law with the intent to improve access, retention and completion so that more of California's diverse students have the opportunity to earn a college degree.
- The bill should grow enrollment by increasing the number of transfer students pursuing and earning a bachelor's degree at both the CSU and UC.
- It is also meant to help fill California's need for a skilled workforce. Governor Newsom has set the goal that – by the year 2030 – at least 70 percent of all Californians will hold a bachelor's degree or certificate in order to fill an estimated 1.5 million positions that will require higher education.

#### *Impact on Students*

- Until now, the CSU has always had one unified GE pattern for all students – CSU GE Breadth – whether they come to us as freshmen or transfer students.
- More than 40% of the CSU's students are transfer students, largely from the California Community Colleges.
- When Cal-GETC is adopted in fall 2025, the community colleges will no longer offer the current CSU GE Breadth and Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) patterns.
- Clear roadmaps and coordination between segments are key, as more and more students come to us in omnidirectional patterns:
  - Sixty percent of our first-year students come to us with some sort of transfer credit, from community college dual-enrollment programs or AP test credit.
  - Students may join us through community college dual-admission programs, or as adult learners and veterans requesting credit for prior learning,
  - CSU students may “reverse transfer” to a community college to take summer courses or complete an ADT and then come back to the CSU.

- Or they may stop out and then reenroll at a CSU a few years later.
- With the need to grow enrollment, many CSUs are opening admission to lower-division transfer students.
- In any of these cases, if the CSU were to offer two different roadmaps, it would be confusing for students to choose the right one – and an obstacle for the students we serve.

#### *Cal-GETC vs. CSU GE Breadth*

- Cal-GETC requires five fewer units than CSU GE Breadth. It does this by:
  - Including a one-unit laboratory for Biological or Physical Sciences.
  - Not including one of three Arts or Humanities courses (in Area C).
  - And not including Area E, Lifelong Learning and Self-Development.

#### *The Work Ahead*

- The Board of Trustees will need to revise Title 5 to reflect changes to GE by January 2024. This is true whether the board decides to keep CSU GE Breadth for first-time freshmen or change to Cal-GETC.
- The Chancellor's Office will initiate conversations with campus stakeholders this summer and fall to allow universities adequate time to discuss and consider the issues ahead of board action, and to prepare for fall 2025. This includes
  - Updating road maps, digital degree planners, degree audit programs and student advising plans.
  - Updating Associate Degree for Transfer pathways.
  - Adjusting ADTs if Cal-GETC has disrupted double-counting in the lower-division GE pattern.
  - Advising the community college system on the updated ADT requirements.
- If we decide to adopt Cal-GETC as our singular GE pattern:
  - There will need to be an update to GE and some GE courses on each campus.
  - Universities will have the opportunity to determine how to use the extra five units of CSU GE Breadth that aren't included in Cal-GETC. This could include:
    - Establishing a signature university requirement.
    - Focusing some of these units to institutionalize student success strategies, such as a first-year experience course, academic support or supplemental study sessions.
    - Allowing academic programs to determine the best use.
- The Chancellor's Office will be providing additional information and soliciting feedback through the AB 928 website: [www.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/student-success/AB-928/](http://www.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/student-success/AB-928/)