

California State University Lower Division Major Requirements (Lower Division Transfer to Majors Project)

The Lower Division Transfer to Majors project was initiated by the Academic Senate of the CSU in collaboration with the Academic Affairs Division of the Chancellor's Office. The original impetus for the project was to honor the Partnership with the Governor that calls upon the CSU to create transfer program agreements to facilitate student transfer to the CSU. The intent of the project is to achieve as much consensus as possible among CSU program faculty on lower-division components for at least each of the twenty largest undergraduate majors in the CSU.

Specifically, this project seeks to identify a set of courses and/or competencies that will satisfy the lower-division expectations for a particular major at all or most CSU campuses, so that a student can complete those expectations at a community college and know that they will be appropriate regardless of the specific CSU campus to which the student transfers. This set of courses and/or competencies is referred to as a "common core," but the project does not, in fact, *require* all CSU departments offering a major to agree upon the same specific courses as lower-division requirements. Instead, the goal is to provide students seeking to undertake one of the twenty largest majors in the CSU with the information they need to plan their community-college course work in such a way as to expedite the timely completion of their baccalaureate major degree program after they transfer to a CSU campus.

To achieve this goal, faculty discipline groups are meeting to discuss the lower division expectations most pertinent to their particular discipline and to identify, define, and reach consensus on a common set of lower-division courses and/or requirements for their major. When there is agreement upon course titles and descriptions, they will be submitted for approval to the California Articulation Numbering system (CAN) and disseminated widely, in both electronic and printed formats, as common course numbers in both the community colleges and the CSU.

This information will then serve as a major-specific lower division curriculum guide for all counselors, faculty, and students regardless of the particular community college where a student begins or the particular California State University campus to which he or she transfers. The set of lower-division competencies and/or courses that identified by a particular major may not be exhaustive of the lower-division major requirements of any individual CSU campus, as some programs/major may find it necessary to maintain a requirement specific to that campus.

This project will greatly facilitate the flow of students intending to transfer from a California Community College to a CSU as well as enhance the mobility of students moving between the CSUs. When fully implemented, this project will enhance the ability of students to transfer and graduate from the CSU in a timely and effective fashion.