ASSOCIATE DEGREE FOR TRANSFER STATUS REPORT
2024

ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT CALIFORNIA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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ABOUT AICCU

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) is comprised of 90 independent, nonprofit colleges and universities, which make up the Independent California Colleges and Universities (ICCU) sector. The ICCU sector plays a pivotal role in the development of the state’s model higher education offerings and in making California a symbol of innovation across the globe. Within California, ICCU institutions award 20 percent of all undergraduate degrees and 54 percent of graduate degrees, making them the largest preparers of California’s advanced workforce.

Independent California Colleges and Universities are recognized in the state’s Master Plan for Higher Education as a provider of affordable college access and a partner with other sectors and the state in the preparation of future leaders and the state’s workforce. Independent colleges and universities are defined in California Education Code 66010 (b): As used, “independent institutions of higher education” are those nonpublic higher education institutions that grant undergraduate degrees, graduate degrees, or both, and that are formed as nonprofit corporations in this state and are accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.
INTRODUCTION

This report to the Legislature and Department of Finance, submitted by the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) on behalf of California independent, nonprofit higher education institutions, provides an annual update on the state of Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) applications to participating independent, nonprofit colleges and universities.

Created in 2010, the program was originally designed for California Community College (CCC) students to transfer to the California State University (CSU) system. The core pillars of the program are similar regardless of whether students on ADT pathways transfer to a CSU or a participating AICCU institution – at least a 2.0 grade point average, enrolling at the CSU (or AICCU member institution) with junior standing, and a guarantee to complete a bachelor’s degree in no more than 68 units (two years) at the receiving institution.

As noted in prior years, one key difference with the ADT at participating AICCU institutions is that students are guaranteed admittance to the specific institution they have applied to, whereas students admitted to the CSU system may be redirected to a nonimpacted campus.

2024 UPDATE

For a second year, ADT targets were determined using a dynamic methodology, which sets an annual target based on the prior year ADT admit number to AICCU institutions, adjusted by the year-over-year percentage change in new transfer student enrollment\(^1\) from CCCs to the private, nonprofit sector.

AICCU uses the California Community College Chancellor’s Office Data Mart\(^2\) as the source for determining the new student transfer population because this data is publicly available and the closest representation of students transferring into the sector specifically from a CCC. Other federally-recognized data sources, such as the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, were considered, however, these data do not distinguish between in-state and out-of-state transfer, or between upward or lateral transfers.

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\(^1\) AICCU based new transfer student enrollment on the entire sector of private, nonprofit institutions in order to account for any fluctuations in membership.

\(^2\) [https://datamart.cccco.edu](https://datamart.cccco.edu)
Using this ADT target methodology, AICCU staff calculated a target number of 1,889.

**2023-24 ADT ADMITS ARE STABLE**

A total of 2,117 unduplicated ADT students were admitted to 33 AICCU participating institutions for the 2023-2024 academic year. Five institutions reported zero ADT applications. Two ADT accepting institutions did not participate in this year’s data collection. Similar to last year, half of the participating institutions reported lower ADT admit numbers compared to the prior year, while the other half reported stable or increased admits.

Table 1 presents the number of ADT students admitted to participating AICCU institutions since ADT collection began. It also contains the number of institutions reporting during each given time period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection Year</th>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Institutions Reporting</th>
<th>De-duplicated ADT Students Admitted</th>
<th>Percentage Change over Prior Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>869</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2,372</td>
<td>173.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2020-21</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2,175</td>
<td>-8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2,898</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2022-23</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2,163</td>
<td>-25.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2023-24</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2,117</td>
<td>-2.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS**

**DATA COLLECTION PROCESS**

Each institution was provided a generic Excel workbook containing basic fields for each student record. Institutional representatives were instructed to work across departments to collect relevant student admit records, sign an MOU for data sharing between AICCU and the institution, and upload the file to a secured OneDrive folder. Once records were submitted, AICCU de-duplicated records and aggregated total ADT students admitted within the sector.

In 2022, AICCU began requesting data pertaining to the outcome measures of current and previously admitted ADT students. These additional metrics were submitted through a separate Google form.
ENROLLMENT TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Expanding the scope of the ADT data collection to include enrollment, demographics, and outcome measures has given AICCU a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of the ADT program by providing insight into potential equity gaps and student progress through the educational pipeline. AICCU institutions have now accepted a total of 12,594 ADT applicants since participation in the program began during the 2018-19 academic year, with approximately 62% of these applicants, or nearly 7,800 students, having enrolled at a participating member institution. The breakdown of admits and enrollees by year is shown in Figure 1 below.3

![Figure 1: Year-over-year Enrollment of ADT Students Admitted to AICCU Institutions](image)

Identical to last year’s findings, the median age in this year’s ADT admitted student population was 23. Of those who enrolled, the median age was 24, with over 48% of students being nontraditional learners over the age of 25.

![Figure 2: Age Distribution of ADT Population](image)

3 Source: AICCU ADT Data Collection, 2018-2024
For a second year in a row, ADT applicants and enrollees were more likely to be Hispanic or Latino than the overall undergraduate population at AICCU institutions, whereas the breakdown of other racial/ethnic categories of ADT students largely mirror those of the general undergraduate student population (Figure 3).

In total, 42% of students who enrolled at AICCU institutions through the ADT pathway were from underrepresented backgrounds.

**TRENDS IN STUDENT PERSISTENCE**

AICCU once again collected data on one-year retention and two-year graduation rates for ADT pathways. Figure 4 compares these metrics for AICCU alongside ADT students on guaranteed pathways at the CSU system.

As AICCU has now collected outcome measures for three cohort years, there appears to be consistency in student persistence with a 59% two-year graduation rate for ADT enrolled students for two consecutive cohorts. One-year retention rates also improved for ADT students who transferred into the sector during the 2022-23 academic year.

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5 One-year retention was measured as students who enrolled during the indicated year, and continued to enroll one year later.
6 Note: one-year retention was not requested from the 2018-2019 AICCU ADT admit cohort
7 Two-year graduation rates were used as the measurement of 100% degree completion, as the assumption is that four-year degrees typically require 120 units, and at least 60 units would transfer for students admitted with an ADT guaranteed pathway.
EFFORTS TO INCREASE TRANSFER

ASSIST.ORG INTEGRATION MILESTONE

The 2022-23 State Budget provided $1.5 million to the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) to integrate AICCU member institutions into the ASSIST platform. Since then, AICCU staff have worked diligently with staff from member institutions and UCOP to develop plans for system integration and memorandums of understanding.

In March 2024, AICCU reached a major milestone in these efforts when 28 member institutions officially signed MOUs to onboard to the ASSIST platform. Those institutions will begin uploading the data necessary to map their articulation agreements into the platform in mid-May 2024, which will then be integrated into the platform. The information for those institutions should then be available for users on ASSIST by late-August or early-September of this year. AICCU staff will continue to onboard additional member institutions to ASSIST in the future.

The lack of inclusion in the ASSIST platform was the most commonly-cited issue by community college counselors during regional convenings that AICCU conducted as part of grant-funded work in 2022.\(^8\) Leadership from AICCU and

our member institutions remain deeply appreciative of the Newsom Administration and Legislature for investing in this effort.

CALIFORNIA PRIVATE COLLEGE IS POSSIBLE INITIATIVE

Last year, AICCU and nine member institutions launched the California Private College is Possible Alliance with the goal of increasing access to private higher education institutions by expanding coordinated outreach to students, families, and counselors. The effort also aims to provide easily accessible, centralized information on admissions, financial aid, and other basic but important information for students, families, and counselors. Since its inception last year, AICCU staff have worked to expand the number of member institutions who formally participate in the work. The initial cohort of nine member institutions has since grown to 46.

AICCU advances the goals of the alliance through the California Private College is Possible initiative, which provides programming events, workshops, and other engagement with community-based organizations that bring together admission, financial aid, and student affairs staff from member institutions to meet with students, their families, and counselors from both high schools and community colleges.

RETURN OF AICCU REGIONAL COUNSELOR CONFERENCES

As part of AICCU’s work through the California Private College is Possible initiative, in September 2023 AICCU organized a series of regional counselor conferences throughout the state. These convenings brought together nearly 600 high school and community college transfer counselors to learn more about opportunities for their students at AICCU institutions. Five of these events were held at AICCU member institutions (Mount Saint Mary’s University Los Angeles, the University of La Verne, the University of the Pacific, the University of San Francisco, and Whittier College). Two additional events were held at the Humboldt County Office of Education in Eureka and a virtual statewide event.

Each event featured sessions on admissions, financial aid, and student services that were designed to connect counselors directly with institutional staff. Each in-person event ended with a college fair, allowing counselors to meet with different campuses. Twenty-six member institutions participated in these events, and AICCU staff are in the process of planning similar events throughout the state for Fall 2024.
JOINT PROGRAMMING WITH CCC CHANCELLOR’S OFFICE

The CCC Chancellor’s Office Vision 2030 set a series of goals for the system to pursue, including one around baccalaureate attainment to “increase with equity the number of California community college students who transfer to non-profit private/independent four-year institutions.” Over the course of several discussions, staff from AICCU and the CCC Chancellor’s Office agreed to partner for a series of convenings focused on how to improve transfer pathways between our respective institutions. The first event takes place virtually on Thursday, April 18, and will be co-hosted by AICCU President Kristen Soares and CCC Chancellor Sonya Christian. As of April 9, over 120 individuals have registered to attend.

Looking ahead, we plan to organize additional convenings focused on topics such as regional transfer pathways, program-specific pathways, and expanding ADT.

CONCLUSION

In recent years, AICCU has undertaken significant work to improve visibility and understanding of member institutions through programmatic efforts, including ASSIST, the California Private College is Possible initiative, AICCU regional counselor conferences, and partnership with the CCC Chancellor’s Office. Additionally, AICCU remains an active participant in the AB 928 Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Committee and the Common Course Number Council and looks forward to the continued focus on expanding ADT offerings to STEM degree programs.

AICCU and member institutions remain deeply committed to the ADT program as an important pathway for community college students to continue their educational pursuits at an independent nonprofit college or university. While overall transfer enrollment from CCCs to AICCU institutions has decreased year-over-year, it is encouraging to see that ADT admit numbers remained stable over the past year. It is also encouraging to see that students of color, particularly Hispanic and Latino students, are availing of the ADT pathway to enroll at AICCU institutions.

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9 https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Vision-2030/outcomes-and-metrics
AICCU is greatly appreciative of state investments that supported ASSIST integration, including the ongoing funding to UCOP to maintain and update that information.

To further remove barriers to transfer, AICCU encourages the Legislature and Newsom Administration to fund the expanded portability of the California Community College Expanded Transfer Entitlement award so that nontraditional students seeking to transfer from a community college can use their remaining Cal Grant entitlement award at an AICCU institution. This arbitrary policy barrier is financial deterrent for students, and funding the expansion of the award portability would help compliment ongoing efforts to increase transfer to the ICCU sector.

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