California Community Colleges

MEMORANDUM
April 24, 2025

ESS 25-19 | Via Email

TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Articulation Officers
Transfer Center Directors

FROM: Raul Arambula, Dean of Educational Services and Support
Cheryl Aschenbach, President of Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

RE: New TMC Version: Physics Transfer Model Curriculum Substantive Change

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Background

Senate Bill 1440 (Padilla, 2010) enacted the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act, which required the creation of the associate degree for Transfer (ADT). To implement the legislation, the Intersegmental Curriculum Council (ICC) was created to oversee the components and development of the statewide Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) for each discipline.

To ensure the ADTs continue to meet discipline curriculum standards, a five-year review process of each TMC was instituted. During the five-year review of Physics TMC substantive changes to the degree's curriculum necessitated the creation of a new version of the Physics TMC.

This degree is a high-unit STEM major that prepares students for transfer to both the CSU and UC as detailed in Assembly Bill 2057 (Berman, 2024).

> California Education Code 66749.81.
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> (b) (1) The 60-unit lower division maximum requirement shall be retained for an ADT, with the exception of paragraph (2):
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> (2) For STEM major pathways identified as high-unit STEM pathways by the Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee established pursuant to Section 66749.8, ADT pathways may be established that contain up to, but no more than, 66 units of lower division coursework, and require the submission of clear evidence and rationale for the one to six additional units of lower division coursework proposed during the TMC approval process. This clear evidence and rationale shall include both of the following:
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> > (A) An explanation of which proposed additional units do not fit within the 60-unit lower division maximum requirement for ADT pathways.

(B) An explanation of the need for one to six additional units to be added to the lower division coursework to earn an ADT that fall within the academic major preparation for the TMC.

(3) The clear evidence and rationale described in paragraph (2) shall first be reviewed by the Intersegmental Curriculum Council and then reviewed by the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.

(4) The clear evidence and rationale described in paragraph (2) shall be posted publicly on the internet website of the office of the Chancellor of the California Community College.

This memorandum provides further information regarding degree versioning and action the CSU intends to take regarding similarity declaration. The California Community College Chancellor's Office has released the updated Physics ADT Form on Feb. 1, 2025. The updated form is Approved ADT Submission Forms webpage.

Curriculum Guidance

Colleges currently offering a Physics ADT have 18 months starting Feb. 1, 2025, to provide a degree that reflects the new TMC version. This early release of the TMC aims to give colleges extra time to preview the new requirements. For more information regarding degree versioning, please refer to ESS 22-300-009 (disseminated Aug. 4, 2022). Because both degree versions affect California State University (CSU) admission decisions, it is essential that colleges clearly identify the degree version they offer. To accomplish this:

- When entering the new Physics 2.0 ADT into the Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI), the program must be entered separately from the prior version presently in COCI. This will result in colleges having two Physics ADT degree records in COCI. The different titles and control numbers will allow CSU to differentiate which version a student is using to transfer. New degrees must be labeled as Physics 2.0.
- Colleges must also locally list and transcript the new degree to clearly differentiate it from a prior version (e.g., AS-T in Physics 2.0).
- When setting the status of the Physics 2.0 degree to "active" in COCI, colleges must simultaneously deem the prior version "inactive" in COCI. This action will cease new student enrollments in the older version's program while at the same time provide students with the opportunity to enroll in the new Physics 2.0 program.

Advising Guidance

It is important that students pursuing an ADT in Physics are aware of both degree versions and understand which version is most appropriate for them.

- Beginning fall 2026, Cal State Apply will list both degree versions in the Extended Profile drop down section for selection when students declare an ADT during the application process.
- CSU campuses will continue to honor similar pathways for the prior degree version for no less than three years from the date of a new TMC's release. For example, all similar pathways to CSU campuses for the older Physics degree will remain in place at least through the February 2028 enrollment term.
- ADT search engines, such as provided on ICanGoToCollege.com or CalState.edu/Apply/Transfer, will list for selection both Physics and Physics 2.0. Similar pathways to a CSU campus will differ based on degree version.

Each CSU campus will review existing similar baccalaureate pathways based on the new Physics Studies TMC by Oct. 2025 and provide similar lists to the California State University Chancellor's Office (CSUCO). Those lists will then be used to update degree search engines for display as Physics 2.0 ADTs become available and are listed for search queries.

For questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Dean Raul Arambula at RArambula@CCCCO.edu.

cc: Sonya Christian, Chancellor
Rowena Tomaneng, Deputy Chancellor