



AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE

PET Data Share – Degrees and Certificates

The Recent Rise of CSU Transfer-Oriented Certificates

Overall, the total number of degrees and certificates awarded increased by 2% year-over-year from 3,919 in 2020-2021 to 3,998 in 2021-2022. Upon closer inspection, this increase was driven almost entirely by one award type: certificates ranging from 30 to 59.99 units (see below) [Source: ARC Data on Demand (Precision Campus)]

Count of Degrees and Certificates Awarded

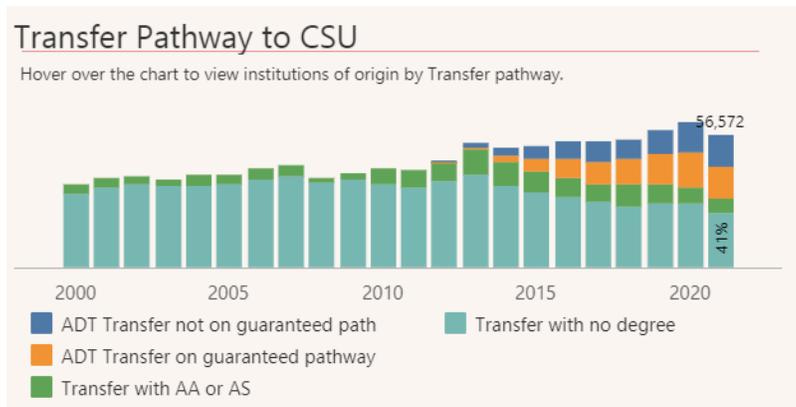
Award Type	2020-2021	2021-2022	Percent Change
Associate in Arts	989	959	-3%
Associate in Arts Transfer	393	404	3%
Associate in Science	863	855	-1%
Associate in Science Transfer	414	355	-14%
Cert 6-17.99 Units (No Apprv)	78	53	-32%
Cert 12-18 Units (Chanc Apprv)	1	0	-100%
Cert 16-29.99 Units	161	140	-13%
Cert 8-15.99 Units Chanc Apprv	156	147	-6%
Certificate 30 - 59.99 Units	864	1,085	26%

Three transfer-oriented GE certificates dominated this award type: CSU GE (39 units), IGETC-CSU (34-37 units), and IGETC-UC (34-37 units). Collectively, these certificates accounted for 83% (20-21) and 73% (21-22) of all 30 to 59.99-unit certificates. As shown below, the CSU GE-related certificates, in particular, the IGETC-CSU certificate, accounted for the largest growth, a 46% increase, year-over-year.

Count of Transfer-Oriented GE Certificates Awarded

Certificate 30 - 59.99 Units	2020-2021	2021-2022	Percent Change
CSU General Ed	431	468	9%
IGETC - CSU	141	206	46%
IGETC - UC	147	113	-23%

The reason for the steep increase in these certificates is unclear. It may be that students earning these certificates are completing their transfer requirements and transferring without a community college degree (ADT or otherwise). A recent [commentary in EdSource](#) argues that ADT degrees may be the least effective way for a student to transfer to a CSU of their choice. In support of that argument, an analysis of California Community College transfers to CSU reveals that the most frequent avenue to transferring to CSU is without any degree (a 41% plurality in 2021). ARC ranked among the top 20 (#18) in terms of sending institutions transferring students to CSU without a degree.



Source: CalState Data Center: [Student Origins Dashboard](#)