

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 1769 (Ramos)

As Amended May 18, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the California State University (CSU) and California Community Colleges (CCC) that offer a baccalaureate degree, and requests the University of California (UC), to develop and implement transfer and articulation pathways for students attending California tribal colleges and universities (TCUs).

Major Provisions

- 1) Requires CSU and CCC, that offer a baccalaureate degree, and requests UC, to establish transfer agreement and articulation programs for students attending TCUs.
- 2) Requires programs to include key components, including, but not limited to:
 - a) Enrollment and resource planning;
 - b) Intersegmental faculty curricular efforts;
 - c) Coordinated counseling and transfer services;
 - d) Financial aid and transfer services;
 - e) Early outreach activities; and,
 - f) Support centers.
- 3) Requires the CSU and CCC, and requests the UC, to the extent capacity is available, to develop and implement concurrent enrollment opportunities to allow TCU students to take courses at the CSU, CCC, and UC.
- 4) Requires CSU and CCC, and requests UC, to assess and leverage existing transfer tools and systems (e.g., articulation systems, transfer curricula).
- 5) Defines the following:
 - a) "Public postsecondary educational institution" means a campus of the CSU, CCC, or the UC; and,
 - b) "TCU" means tribal colleges and universities geographically located in California that are operated by an Indian tribal government, as federally defined. "TCU" includes, but is not limited to, California Indian Nations College, California Tribal College, and Kumeyaay Community College.

COMMENTS

What are TCUs? According to California Indian Nations College (CINC), tribal colleges and universities are part of the treaty and trust responsibilities between the government and tribes.

TCUs provide culturally relevant education and serve populations historically underrepresented in higher education.

According to CINC, "tribal colleges and universities do not fit into any of the segments of higher education listed in California Education Code Section 66010. They are not part of the University of California, California State University, nor the California Community College system. As TCUs are public institutions, not private, they are not part of the Independent California Colleges and Universities segment."

Further, data provided by CINC shows California has one-fifth of all federally recognized tribes and 1.4 million people who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, the largest overall population of any state. Native American students who attend a TCU before attending a mainstream four-year institution are four times more likely to earn their bachelors degree compared to their peers who enroll directly in a mainstream four-year institution."

California currently is home to three TCUs: 1) CINC; 2) California Tribal College; and, 3) Kumeyaay Community College.

Equity in transfer pathways. While California has made significant progress in intersegmental transfer systems, TCUs have historically been less integrated into these pathways. This measure addresses a gap by formally incorporating TCUs into statewide transfer planning. By improving transfer pathways there is a high likelihood that the State will see an increase in certificate and degree attainment among Native American students; which will also support workforce participation, aligning with broader State goals related to equity and economic mobility.

According to the Author

According to the author, "currently, there is not a tribal college articulation process for ensuring that coursework at tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) can seamlessly transfer. Since there is no process, this leads to the duplication of coursework which does not ensure an efficient transfer process for the student. Research done by Rachel Bryan [author of *Native American Student Success: The Effect of Tribal Colleges and Universities on Native American Student Retention*] shows that Native American students who attend a TCU before a traditional four-year institution are four times more likely to earn their bachelor's degree compared to their peers who enroll directly. With that said, ensuring that we have a process in place for students is of importance for two reasons: to prevent duplication of coursework allowing for a streamlined transfer process and to prevent additional tuition costs."

The author states that, "tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) offer culturally relevant education and serves to bridge the gap in postsecondary education for Native American students. When students who are enrolled at a TCU decide to transfer to one of California's higher education institutions, they may be met with the challenge of ensuring courses they have taken are accepted at their new university."

Further, the author contends that, "to ensure these students are not burdened by duplicative courses if they decide to transfer, we must work to establish transfer agreements. This would offer a helpful tool when it comes to transferring and aim to ensure effective and efficient progression for these students as they continue their pursuit in higher education."

Arguments in Support

According to the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, "the Nation believes it is important to facilitate the articulation and seamless transfer of courses for students attending TCUs to California's postsecondary institutions. Tribal students attending TCUs should no longer be concerned about whether the coursework they are spending their time on will seamlessly transfer, which results in more time for students to focus on their studies and career paths. AB 1769 is a practical and thoughtful solution to a long-standing issue."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations:

- 1) One-time General Fund costs of \$500,000 and ongoing General Fund costs of \$450,000 annually for the UC to include TCUs in the official course transfer and articulation systems in addition to staff time to develop and implement transfer agreements.
- 2) Ongoing General Fund costs of an unknown amount but likely in the hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars for the CSU to include TCUs in the official course transfer and articulation systems in addition to staff time to develop and implement transfer agreements.
- 3) Ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs of an unknown amount, but possibly in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, for CCDs currently offering baccalaureate degrees, to implement transfer agreement and articulation programs with TCUs. Currently, there are 47 approved baccalaureate degree programs across 38 community colleges.

VOTES**ASM HIGHER EDUCATION: 9-0-1**

YES: Fong, DeMaio, Boerner, Jeff Gonzalez, Jackson, Muratsuchi, Patel, Sharp-Collins, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Celeste Rodriguez

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

YES: Wicks, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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