

programs offered by public and private colleges and makes decisions about the number of students that new and existing nursing programs are allowed to enroll. The number of nursing programs in the state totals 152, with 102 public colleges offering some combination of 92 associate degrees in nursing, 47 BSNs, and 13 Entry Level Master's (ELM) programs.

According to the most recent BRN annual school report from the 2022-23 school year, California graduated about 13,984 students in 2022-23 from registered nursing programs, which represents a 20% increase in student completions since 2016. Associate's degree completions decreased while bachelor's degrees and ELM nursing completions increased. The number of joint associate degrees in nursing and bachelor's programs has increased over the last 10 years. The time it takes a student to graduate from a program varies by degree. An associate degree in nursing prepares students for registered nursing care in a variety of settings in two-to-three years, whereas a bachelor's degree takes about four years to train students for registered nursing care as well as administrative and leadership positions. An ELM is a one- to two- year program for baccalaureate degree holders in other fields seeking to become registered nurses. All schools are required to provide clinical instruction with clinical placement in a health care facility in each phase of the educational process. Students must pass a national licensure examination to earn a license.

Existing Expansions of CCC Programs. In 2014 the Legislature authorized the California community college board of governors, in consultation with the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC), to establish a baccalaureate degree pilot program. The pilot program allowed up to 15 participating CCDs to offer one baccalaureate degree program each to meet local workforce needs provided it was not duplicating a baccalaureate degree program already offered by the CSU or the UC. The LAO conducted interim and final evaluations of the pilot program.

In 2021, the Legislature made the program permanent, permanently approving the original pilot programs and authorizing as many as 30 new baccalaureate degrees per year. As of publication of this analysis there are a total of 47 approved programs across 38 community colleges. Most participating campuses currently offer one program. Current law continues to prohibit any of the CCC baccalaureate degree programs to duplicate programs offered by the CSU or UC. This bill exempts BSN programs offered by the CCC from this prohibition.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 1400 (Soria) of 2025 was substantially similar to this bill. The Governor vetoed AB 1400 citing recently enacted legislation expanding CCC's authority and the need to give those policies time for study before granting additional expansions of the CCC's role.

Analysis Prepared by: Aaron Heredia / APPR. / (916) 319-2081