



Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Assembly of the
Academic Senate
Faculty Representative,
UC Board of Regents

Academic Senate

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May 4, 2026

Academic Senate Division Chairs

Re: BOARS Guidance on Associate Degree for Transfer Pilot Programs

Dear Divisional Chairs:

On behalf of the Academic Council, I am pleased to transmit the attached letter from the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools ([BOARS](#)), offering guidance about the development of Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) pilot programs, in accordance with California Assembly Bill [1291](#) (2023).

The guidance offers recommended timelines and steps for developing campus-specific ADT pilot programs, including forming divisional task forces, identifying appropriate undergraduate majors and partner California community colleges, and consulting with relevant constituent groups. While the document provides a systemwide framework, BOARS emphasizes that implementation should reflect each division's academic mission and transfer admissions goals.

I ask that you share this guidance with your divisional Senate committees on admissions and other relevant faculty and administrators at your campus, as appropriate. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Academic Council

cc: Academic Council
Provost & Executive Vice President Newman
Vice President & Vice Provost Gullatt
Associate Vice Provost & Executive Director Yoon-Wu
Senate Division Executive Directors
Senate Executive Director Lin



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BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS (BOARS)
David Volz, Chair
david.volz@ucr.edu

April 3, 2026

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Academic Council

RE: Systemwide Guidance for Developing Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) Pilot Programs

Dear Chair Palazoglu,

On behalf of UC’s Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), I am writing to inform the Divisions about BOARS’ systemwide guidance for developing Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) pilot programs. Using the UCLA model as a guide, BOARS has developed a systemwide guidance document that provides recommended steps for developing ADT pilot program goals and identifying selected majors at undergraduate campuses across the UC system in order to comply with AB 1291 (2023). Although this guidance is intended to provide general systemwide recommendations about the timeline and steps to implementation, the ultimate approach used is at the discretion of the Divisional Academic Senate depending on their own academic mission and transfer admissions goals. Additional details about the background, purpose, timeline, and recommended steps can be found within the attached guidance document accompanying this memo.

Thank you for your assistance in conveying this information to the Divisions.

Sincerely,

David Volz, Chair
BOARS

BOARS' Systemwide Guidance for Developing ADT Pilot Programs

Background: Per AB 1291 (2023), UCLA was required to develop an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) pilot program to provide “appropriate admissions preference” to students who complete an ADT in specific majors at select California community colleges (CCCs). UCLA was to start with eight majors for the 2026-2027 admissions cycle, to be expanded to 12 for the 2028-2029 cohort (including four STEM majors). UCLA has already identified the eight majors and CCCs for the first phase of the program.

AB 1291 also requires that an additional five UC campuses (also known as Divisions) each choose 12 majors offered at select CCCs for this pilot, starting with the 2028-2029 cohort. AB 1291 further states that “[t]he applicable campus of the University of California shall determine the appropriate admissions preference for a student who earns an associate degree for transfer and meets the requirements of one of the transfer model curricula...” This is a faculty-driven decision, so UCOP needs direction and feedback from the Academic Senate for future planning and action. Per AB 1291, the 12-major minimum does not apply to UC Merced, although UC Merced has indicated that they plan to participate and include at least 12 majors.

Purpose: Using the UCLA model as a guide, BOARS has developed this systemwide guidance document that provides recommended steps for developing ADT pilot program goals and identifying selected majors at undergraduate campuses across the UC system. Although this guidance is intended to provide general systemwide recommendations about the timeline and steps to implementation, the ultimate approach used is at the discretion of the Divisional Academic Senate depending on their own academic mission and transfer admissions goals.

Timeline for launching campus-specific ADT pilot programs for the 2028-2029 cohort:

- Spring 2026: Divisional Academic Senate creates and charges campus ADT Task Force.
- Fall 2026/Winter 2027: ADT Task Force completes its work, including data collection/analysis and stakeholder consultation.
- Winter 2027: ADT Task Force report completed.
- Spring 2027: Pilot implementation begins, including communication of campus ADT pilot programs with internal stakeholders and CCCs.
- Fall 2027: Launch ADT pilot programs publicly for 2028-2029 cohort.

Recommended steps for developing campus-specific ADT

pilot programs for the 2028-2029 cohort:

1. The Divisional Senate committees on undergraduate admissions and educational policy create a joint ADT Task Force charged with developing ADT pilot program goals and identifying selected majors and target CCCs. The task force should consist of two co-chairs and four additional faculty members with support from a Divisional Senate analyst. UCLA's charge is provided as an example within Appendix 1. (Spring 2026)
2. Once created, the ADT Task Force outlines campus-specific ADT pilot program goals that align with the Division's academic mission while, at the same time, increases access and opportunity for transfer students. For example, the UCLA ADT Task Force's four goals were to 1) amplify majors with capacity for growth, 2) maintain enrollment equilibrium, 3) expand outreach to low-sending CCCs, and 4) align with campus and systemwide strategic initiatives. Campus-specific ADT programs should aim to provide "appropriate admissions preference" to transfer students from CCCs that have ADTs aligned with identified majors for the ADT pilot program. When selecting CCCs, the ADT Task Force should, in consultation with UCOP's Office of Undergraduate Admissions, also consider potential impacts and overlap with other campuses that may be developing similar ADT programs and drawing from a similar pool of transfer applicants. (Spring 2026)
3. The ADT Task Force gathers and analyzes data provided by their campus-level institutional research office and Deans of relevant units at the Division to identify potential majors and CCCs that fulfill the identified program goals. For example, relevant data requests may include 1) transfer enrollment by major over time, 2) majors with enrollment capacity and potential for growth, and 3) existing ADT programs at CCCs designated as low-sending to units within the Division. (Fall 2026/Winter 2027)
4. Once target majors and CCCs have been identified, the ADT Task Force assesses alignment and articulation of campus major requirements with CCC ADTs. First, they should assess how major-specific preparation requirements align with the CSU/CCC transfer model curricula (TMCs). For UC campus majors with strong alignment with TMCs, the TMCs will require all of the campus major preparation coursework. For majors with partial alignment, the ADT Task Force should examine how a specific CCC implements their ADT to determine 1) if the CCC incorporates all of the campus major requirements and 2) if alignment depends on how a student fulfills options within an ADT. For any majors under consideration, the ADT Task Force should assess the articulation status of the campus major requirements with the equivalent CCC ADT course requirements. Majors with admission requirements that are not aligned with TMCs/ADTs or have poor articulation would not be included within the ADT pilot

program, meaning that these applicants would need to rely on ADT-independent transfer admission pathways. (Fall 2026/Winter 2027)

5. Following alignment assessments, the ADT Task Force then engages in stakeholder consultation with department chairs and staff representing the potential majors as well as campus-specific student association representatives. UCLA's questions for stakeholders are provided as an example within Appendix 2. (Fall 2026/Winter 2027)

6. Following stakeholder consultation, the ADT Task Force writes and disseminate its report. It should summarize their approach and the recommended majors and CCCs for their campus ADT pilot program, based on the previously identified program goals. (Winter 2027)

7. Campus-specific Admissions Directors and Enrollment Management Leads can then send letters to selected CCCs with targeted ADTs to inform them about their participation in the pilot. Communication may also include pre-scheduled open Q&A sessions with CCC transfer director centers and counselors as well as a schedule for updating campus-specific Undergraduate Admissions websites. (Spring 2027)

8. ADT pilot programs publicly launch and are then implemented by campus admissions staff. ADT status is self-reported on the UC application for ADT pilot program applicants. (Fall 2027)

December 7, 2023

To: Scott Brandenburg, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Connie Kasari, Education/Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences
Edith Omwami, Education
Cristobal Silva, English
Alexander Spokoyny, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Luke Yarbrough, Near Eastern Languages & Cultures

Dear Members,

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the UCLA Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) Pilot Program Task Force.

I. Authority

In light of the passage of [California Assembly Bill AB-1291](#), the Undergraduate Council (UgC) and the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools (CUARS) jointly charge this task force to develop a plan for the implementation and evaluation of the ADT pilot at UCLA.

II. Appointment

This task force will convene during the 2023-24 academic year, providing a report and recommendations to UgC and CUARS by the end of Spring 2024. UgC and CUARS will review the report and take any next steps in AY 2024-25.

III. Membership

This task force is comprised of three members of UgC, one member of CUARS, and two at-large Senate faculty members of the Division selected by the UgC and CUARS Chairs in consultation with the Committee on Committees.

Professors Kasari and Spokoyny will co-chair the task force for the remainder of the 2023-24 academic year.

IV. Charge

This task force shall have the following duties:

1. Identify goals of the UCLA Pilot ADT program.
2. Request and analyze data on transfer model curricula at California community colleges identified by the task force.

3. Request and compare data on ADT curricula to academic requirements for admission to the University of California and to graduation requirements for the Bachelor's degree.
4. Identify the foundational content that must be covered or expanded upon in ADT curricula in order to meet UC admission and UCLA graduation requirements.
5. Based on the above analyses, identify majors at UCLA for potential participation in the ADT pilot program, in alignment with admissions requirements, UCLA academic requirements, and the University's institutional goals and priorities.
6. Engage campus-wide stakeholders in the identified majors in discussions about ADT transfer opportunities.
7. Recommend to UgC and CUARS a total of at least twelve majors at UCLA, including at least four from STEM fields, as similar to the transfer model curricula from select community colleges.
8. Recommend priority admission criteria for students who earn an ADT and meet transfer model curricula requirements in the selected majors, in accordance with existing holistic review criteria determined by CUARS and enrollment targets established annually by UCLA Enrollment Management.
9. Recommend metrics for the evaluation and assessment of the ADT pilot program subject to stated goals.
10. To inform their work, members of the task force will invite and consult with campus stakeholders, including transfer student representatives who represent the end constituency for the ADT pilot, as well as stakeholders involved in implementation of the ADT pilot, including but not limited to the Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education, Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management, Divisional Deans, College and School Faculty Executive Committees, and representatives from the systemwide Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools and Academic Council Special Committee on Transfer Issues.

V. Meeting Frequency

The task force should meet as frequently as specific duties require, but no less than once per month through Spring 2024.

Thank you for your support of this important initiative. If you have any questions, please contact us or Principal Policy Analyst Julia Nelsen at jnelsen@senate.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,

Catherine Sugar
Chair, Undergraduate Council

Lynn Vavreck
Chair, Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools

ADT Task Force Questions for Consultation with Stakeholders

For Department Chairs:

- How does the transfer admission process compare to first-year admission?
- Which UCLA majors are most and least accessible to transfer students?
- What are some barriers that impact transfer students' academic success and time to degree?
- Which campus resources best support transfer students?

For Student Representatives:

- In general, how prepared are transfer students to undertake upper-division coursework in your departmental major(s)?
- What are some barriers that impact transfer students' academic success and time to degree?
- Which resources and opportunities are available to support transfer students in your department?

General:

- What issues should the ADT task force keep in mind as it considers potential majors for the pilot? What questions do you have for the task force?