

# Research Brief #156

June 2018

## Guided Pathways Institute 2 Baseline Data

Preeta Saxena, Ph.D., Vida M. Manzo, Ph.D., Daylene M. Meuschke, Ed.D., and Barry C. Gibbons, Ph.D.

At the request of the College of the Canyons Completes team, the office of Institutional Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness conducted analyses to aid in completing California Guided Pathways Demonstration Project homework for Institute 2. This homework further allowed for an in-depth assessment of average overall units (degree applicable + general education) being completed by degree earners, in alignment with the Vision for Success goal to “decrease the average overall number of units accumulated by CCC students earning associate’s degrees, from approximately 87 total units (the most recent system-wide average) to 79 total units- the average among the top quintile of colleges showing strongest performance on this measure.” This tool will provide a foundation to use as a benchmark as the college progresses with its Guided Pathways efforts.

Specifically, this analysis seeks to provide information on:

- Active students’ program of study on file.
- The number of certificates and degrees awarded by credential type.
- The number of degree applicable units completed by students earning a degree within each program in comparison to the required number of units for that program.
- A comparison of the average overall units (degree applicable + general education) completed by degree earners utilizing the same methodology set forth by the Vision for Success guidelines.

### Method

The most recent fall term (2017FA) was used to identify the number of active students enrolled in programs. The most recent academic year (2016-17) was used for the analysis of units completed among students in each degree program. The required homework for Institute 2 consisted of ‘Enrollment by Program’ and ‘Graduates by Program’. Data on program history and award details were obtained from Informer. There was a total of 1,759 total completers for the 2016-2017 academic year.

For Table 1 new students were identified by having an application on file for the fall 2017 term. The “All Students” column contains duplicate counts, as each student can be “active” in multiple programs. To calculate the “% of Student Count”, the sum of the unduplicated active students (16,530) was used as the denominator and the number of students in a given program as the numerator.

For Table 2 “Certificates < 1yr” signifies certificates which take under 1 year to complete (less than 4 terms course work). These include certificates of Competency and Specialization.

For Chart 1 the “Median Credits for AA/AS/AS-T” was calculated based on the number of COC cumulative degree applicable units earned.

### Results

The most popular program of study based on number of students actively attempting the program was Pre-Nursing (n = 2,142), followed by Biological Sciences (n = 1,762), then Engineering (n = 981).

Table 1. Top 10 active programs of study among students enrolled in Fall 2017. \* CSU Certification, IGETC-Combo Certification, CSU General Breadth, and IGETC in combination accounted for 31% of the student count ("all students" n = 5137).

Program code	Program Name	New Students	Returning Students	All Students	% of Student Count
9650.PRENURS.AS	Pre-Nursing	722	1420	2142	13.00%
1084.BIOL.AS	Biological Sciences	592	1170	1762	10.70%
1682.ENGR.AS	Engineering	243	738	981	5.90%
1006.ACCT.AS	Accounting	190	761	951	5.80%
4249.LSIGCS.AA	Liberal Arts & Sciences IGETC CSU Social & Behavioral Sciences	289	575	864	5.20%
4049.LSIGCH.AA	Liberal Arts & Sciences IGETC CSU Humanities	376	448	824	5.00%
1115.EBUSM.AS	Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management	270	472	742	4.50%
4010.PSYCH.AA	Psychology	266	467	733	4.40%
4149.LSIGCM.AA	Liberal Arts & Sciences IGETC CSU Math & Science	249	419	668	4.00%
1650.NURS.AS	Nursing: Registered Nurse	90	482	572	3.40%

### Graduates by Program

The top 3 Associate Degrees awarded based on number of students who received a degree were Liberal Arts & Sciences\* (n=262), Accounting (n=200), and Psychology for Transfer (n=178). The top 3 Certificates of Achievement based on number awarded were Transfer Studies CSU Breadth (n=682), Transfer Studies IGETC-UC (n=399), and Accounting (n=171). The top 3 Certificates taking less than 1 year to complete, based on number awarded, were Emergency Medical Technician (n=184), Noncredit ESL/Beginning Level (n=148), and Noncredit ESL/Intermediate Level (n=113).

Table 2. Top 10 credentials awarded for the 2016-17 academic year. \*Liberal Arts & Sciences: CSU Social & Behavioral Sciences (n= 183) + IGETC CSU Social & Behavioral Sciences (n= 79).

Associate Degree: AA/AS/ADT	Number awarded	Certificates ≥ 1 yr (Achievement)	Number awarded	Certificates < 1 yr	Certificate Type	Number awarded
Liberal Arts & Sciences	262	Transfer Studies CSU Breadth	682	Emergency Medical Tech.	Specialization	184
Accounting	200	Transfer Studies IGETC-UC	399	NC. ESL/Beginning Level	Competency	148
Psychology for Transfer	178	Accounting	171	NC. ESL/Intermediate Level	Competency	113
Sociology for Transfer	112	Fire Technology/Pre-Service	44	NC. Basic Arithmetic Skills	Competency	40
Nursing: Registered Nurse	103	Business/Marketing	28	Computer Information Tech	Competency	16
Communication Studies for Transfer	88	Administration of Justice	27	Baking and Pastry	Specialization	15
Mathematics	69	Small Business Management	20	Medical Office Admin Assis.	Specialization	10
Administration of Justice for Transfer	56	Water Systems Technology	19	Machining/CNC	Specialization	9
Liberal Arts & Sciences IGETC UC Math & Science	56	Animation Production	15	Sustainable Design and Devel.	Specialization	9
Physics for Transfer	52	Automotive Technology	12	Shielded Metal Arc Welding	Specialization	8

### Total Degree Applicable Units by Program

The overall median degree applicable units for all programs completed in 2016-2017 is 77 units. Figure 1 presents the top 10 Associate Degree programs with the highest median number of degree applicable units

completed by students in 2016-2017. This analysis excludes degree programs with fewer than 10 degree earners. This data may include duplicate students as a student could be pursuing degrees in multiple programs. The white dashed horizontal line denotes total units (degree applicable + G.E.) **required** for that degree. The program with the highest median level of degree applicable units completed by students within the 2016-2017 academic year was Engineering (median = 125 units) followed by Physics for Transfer (median = 112 units) and Animation Production (median = 109 units).

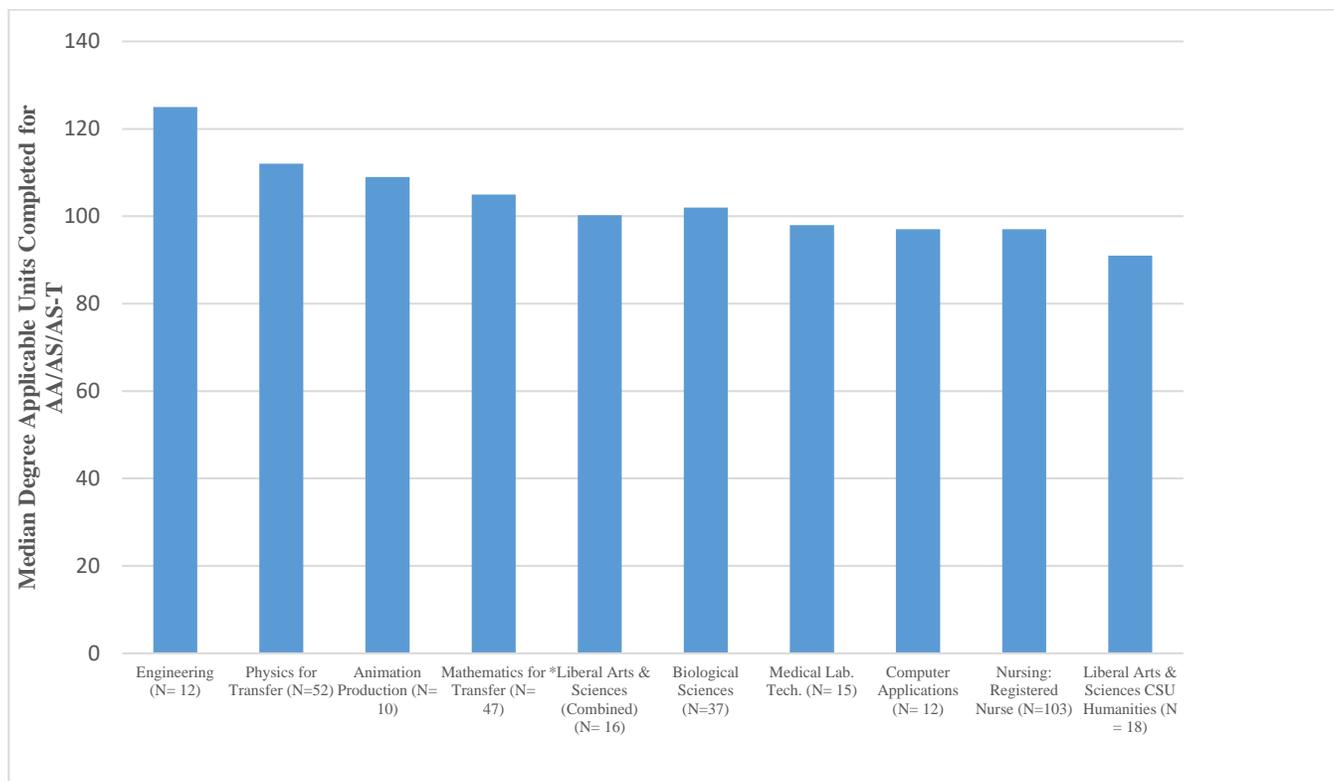


Figure 1. Degree applicable units completed vs. total units required by Major for the 2016-2017 academic year. \*Liberal Arts & Sciences CSU Math & Science (n= 16) and Liberal Arts and Sciences IGETC CSU Math & Science (n=33) were combined.

### *Vision for Success Vs. Guided Pathways Assessment of Associate Degree Earners Units*

According to the specifications set forth by the Vision for Success goal of decreasing the average units attained by associate degree earners, institutions should assess their total overall units (degree applicable + general education). Further, “analysis should include total units for all students, excluding those student records showing degree attainment with less than 60 units, on the rationale that virtually all 2-year associate degrees require at least 60 units.” When analyzing the 2016-2017 degree completers data in this manner the median units becomes **86** which is higher than the 77 median degree applicable units for the 2016-2017 completers as specified in the Guided Pathways Institute homework instructions.

## Recommendations

Upon review of the most common program awards and the program majors with the most students active, the following recommendations should be taken into consideration:

- Consider these results as a benchmark to measure the progress of the college's Canyons Completes work.
- Consider how the CSU IGETCs can be restructured to help students have a clearer pathway.
- Explore factors contributing to high units for majors where graduates completed the program with excessive units beyond the number of required units.
- Consider implications of the number of students with a declared major relative to the number of students earning that particular degree.
- Further discussion should occur regarding the differing models set forth by the Guided Pathways Institute versus the Vision for Success goal for decreasing the average number of units among CCC associate's degree earners.

## References

Vision for Success: Strengthening the California Community Colleges to Meet California's Needs.

[Vision for Success PDF](#)

For more detailed information on this research brief, stop by the Institutional Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness office located in BONH-224, or contact Vida Manzo, Senior Research Analyst at 661.362.5871, or Daylene Meuschke, Dean of Institutional Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness at 661.362.5329.