



CAL POLY

Academic Senate

Executive Committee Agenda

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 | 4:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

<https://calpoly.zoom.us/j/84912296803>

1. Call to Order

Jerusha Greenwood, Academic Senate Chair

2. Communications and Announcements

Jerusha Greenwood

**3. Proposal to Endorse ASCSU Veto Request, AB 1400 (as amended August 29, 2024) –
*Community Colleges Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program***

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Jerusha Greenwood and Steve Rein, ASCSU Senator



September 23, 2025

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Academic Senate of California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Maritime Academy wish to express our endorsement of the attached request to veto Assembly Bill 1400 from the Academic Senate of the California State University.

There are numerous reasons to veto AB 1400, the least of which being that it conflicts with the principles of non-duplication CSUs and CCs are held to since the passage of AB 656, California State University: doctoral programs (McCarty) in October of 2023: non-duplication of degree programs and AB 927, Public Postsecondary Education: community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program (Medina). AB 927 specifically prohibits California Community Colleges from offering bachelor's degrees offered at four-year campuses, and AB 656 prohibits CSUs from offering doctoral programs already offered at UCs.

Assembly Bill 1400 by Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria would authorize 10 community college districts to duplicate Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees currently offered at CSU universities. This is in direct contrast to the spirit of both AB 656 and 927 and would create an atmosphere of competition between CSU and Community College campuses to compete over an ever- shrinking pool of in-state students, rather than forming partnerships that promote the professional successes of California students.

Rather than stress the state's resources further with the creation of curricula at community colleges that already exist at CSUs, focus should be centered on what the Governor promoted when vetoing the previous versions of this legislation (SB 985 and AB 2104). Faculty and staff at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo have worked diligently to streamline transfer criteria, expand Associates Degrees for Transfer opportunities for community college students, and have recently partnered with Allan Hancock College and Cuesta College to offer 2+2 programs in Sociology, Liberal Studies, and Business Administration.

Further reasons to veto AB 1400 are outlined in the attached letter from the ASCSU but are summarized below:

- AB 1400 does not create more registered nurses because it does not expand clinical placements in health-care facilities.



- AB 1400 interferes with implementation of the California Master Plan for Career Education because it creates competition for scarce clinical placements and does not address the shortage of qualified nursing faculty in the state.
- AB 1400 conflicts with the Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Grant Program because it risks the termination or the diminishment of CSU/CC partnership programs developed through grant resources.

The Academic Senate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Maritime Academy are eager to work with the administration of the State of California to implement its critical goals for the success of California residents through partnerships with our colleagues at community colleges. AB 1400, however, represents a costly, inefficient use of stressed state resources and will not achieve its ultimate goal of producing more nurses.

We therefore respectfully urge you to veto AB 1400, consistent with your vision for California and your support for the workforce of our state.

Sincerely,

Jerusha B. Greenwood, Ph.D.

Chair, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Maritime Academy Academic Senate

CC: Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria
Livia Shmavonian, Governor's Office
Nichole Muñoz-Murillo, Governor's Office
Andrew Medina, Senate pro Tem's Office
Mónica Henestroza, Assembly Speaker's Office



Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU)

401 Golden Shore, Suite 243, Long Beach, California 90802-4210

<http://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate>

Executive Committee

Phone: 562-951-4014

E-mail: eboyd@calstate.edu

September 15, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom Governor of California
1021 O Street, Room 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **Assembly Bill 1400 (Soria)** Community Colleges: Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program (As Amended on August 29, 2024)
Academic Senate of the CSU Position: Veto Request

Dear Governor Newsom:

It is with great urgency and respect that the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) requests your veto of Assembly Bill 1400 by Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria, a bill that would authorize 10 community college districts to duplicate Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees currently offered at CSU universities.

We begin by thanking you for your thoughtful vetoes of nearly identical legislation (SB 985 and AB 2104) last year and for your consistent support of the CSU and its mission. Your veto messages emphasized the importance of intersegmental collaboration, the expansion of transfer pathways, and responsible stewardship of state resources. Those values remain critically important. The CSU and its Academic Senate continue to strongly oppose duplicative BSN programs at community colleges, and our faculty and campus leaders have worked diligently to expand partnerships with community colleges, as you encouraged in your veto last year.

AB 1400's supporters argue that it is needed because individuals with an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) cannot access BSN programs. This is incorrect. Data from the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) and the CSU's own experience show that there is ample capacity for ADN-to-BSN students. In fact, BRN data from 2024 demonstrate that more than 2,000 spaces in ADN-to-BSN programs were available across California, many of them within the CSU. The barrier is not program availability but rather limited clinical placements—an issue AB 1400 does nothing to solve.

Our opposition is based on the following concerns:

AB 1400 does not create more registered nurses.

The number of nursing students trained in California is limited by the availability of acute and non-acute care clinical placements in healthcare facilities, not by the number of programs.

Governor Newsom
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CSU has capacity to enroll more students in its pre-licensure BSN programs but cannot expand without additional placements approved by the BRN. AB 1400 would not address this underlying constraint.

AB 1400 does not align with the CSU Multiyear Compact and the Community College Roadmap.

The 2022 agreements between your Administration and the CSU and Community Colleges emphasized collaboration, expansion of Associate Degrees for Transfer, and 2+2 models that improve transfer pathways. AB 1400 undermines these priorities by diverting attention and resources toward duplicative programs that fragment California's higher education system, rather than strengthening intersegmental pathways.

AB 1400 will interfere with the goals of California's Master Plan for Career Education.

Your Executive Order N-11-23 (August 2023) launching a new Master Plan for Career Education prioritizes alignment, coordination, and collaboration across segments. Allowing community colleges to duplicate CSU's BSN programs would create unnecessary competition for scarce clinical placements and qualified faculty, contradicting the vision of coordination central to the Master Plan.

AB 1400 conflicts with the Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Grant Program (RNIGP)

The 2024–25 budget dedicated \$60 million over four years in Proposition 98 funds for the RNIGP to expand BSN partnerships with CSU, UC, and independent institutions, and to improve ADN programs at community colleges. As set out in Education Code 88770, the grant program explicitly supports collaboration and partnership—not independent community college BSN programs. AB 1400 directly conflicts with this statutory intent.

CSU universities already have concurrent enrollment partnership programs with nearly 50 community colleges across the state. These partnerships have a demonstrated history of success, and the CSU is eager to develop more. These programs offer students streamlined BSN pathways, which can reduce the time to graduation from an average of five to six years to three to four years. These partnerships have also helped community colleges become nationally accredited and have increased opportunities for efficient clinical placement coordination.

The funding provided in the RNIGP will be extremely helpful in expanding and creating more of these successful partnerships. The CSU has already reached out to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to begin this important work. However, these vital community college partnership programs will be diminished or terminated once community colleges can provide an independent BSN.

The CSU also offers students in rural areas access to high-quality online ADN to BSN programs from CSU universities. Thus, students in rural areas can remain close to home and work in service to their communities while they earn their BSN degree.

AB 2104 will cost millions with no net gain in nurses and no financial benefit to students.

Nursing programs are expensive to operate. Community colleges offering BSN programs would face significant new costs for upper-division coursework, accreditation, and faculty. Evidence from current community college baccalaureate programs shows that combined tuition and fees are comparable to CSU degrees, meaning students gain no cost advantage. At the same time, state dollars would be wasted duplicating what already exists in the CSU.

Although supporters claim that only 30 additional units are needed beyond the ADN unit requirement, community college BSN programs will actually require 50 additional units, including upper division general education courses, to meet the required 120 semester units needed for a baccalaureate degree. This will require investments in additional faculty beyond nursing education courses.

Current practice shows that there would be no financial advantage for students, and they would not see lower costs. Currently authorized nonduplicative community college baccalaureate programs, such as Dental Hygiene, have combined tuition and fee costs equal to the cost of CSU degree programs.

The state would also see costs as enrollment declines at established CSU and UC nursing programs. In sum, creating new community college BSN nursing programs, without providing the required foundation of additional clinical placements and resources, will only exhaust state dollars on inefficiently copying what already exists for no net gain in nurses.

AB 2104 does not ensure high quality.

The CSU provides nationally accredited BSN programs at 20 universities, with an average NCLEX passage rate of 92%. By contrast, most community college ADN programs are not accredited; only 33 of 77 campuses have achieved national accreditation. Ten community college nursing programs have been placed on probationary status with the BRN since 2021 due to low NCLEX pass rates. Expanding community college BSN programs without first addressing accreditation and compliance challenges would put program quality—and students—at risk.

AB 2104 will set a permanent precedent for degree duplication and the inefficient use of state dollars.

California's higher education system is structured by design: CSU provides affordable access to bachelor's and master's degrees, UC to doctoral degrees, and community colleges to associate degrees and transfer pathways. AB 1400 undermines this structure and creates a dangerous precedent for ongoing degree duplication. This risks wasting taxpayer dollars and destabilizing California's higher education system.

The Administration and the Legislature have consistently and appropriately prevented California's public institutions of higher education from duplicating degree programs when segments have sought to expand degree offerings from their original statutory mission. We have supported this position. Recent legislation you have signed into law, AB 927 of 2021 and

AB 656 of 2023, unequivocally prohibit community colleges from duplicating CSU bachelor's degrees or the CSU to duplicate UC doctoral degrees. AB 2104 will remove this guardrail and prompt the proliferation of multiple legislative proposals for "one-off" degree-duplicating programs.

The three segments with their defined missions were developed for a reason: To provide accessible and affordable choices for all types of educational goals and students through strategic state investment. Scattershot legislative changes to our successful system that are not developed with vision and collaboration will only serve to diminish its effectiveness and set damaging precedents for the future.

The ASCSU is eager to work with your Administration, the Legislature, and our colleagues in other higher education segments to expand nursing pathways through proven partnerships, expanded acute and non-acute care clinical placements, and strategic investments. AB 1400, however, represents a costly and duplicative approach that will not yield more nurses and will undercut ongoing collaborative efforts.

We therefore respectfully urge you to veto AB 1400, consistent with your past actions and vision for higher education in California.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Boyd, Ph.D.
Chair, ASCSU

cc: Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria
Livia Shmavonian, Governor's Office
Nichole Muñoz-Murillo, Governor's Office
Andrew Medina, Senate pro Tem's Office
Mónica Henestroza, Assembly Speaker's Office