California Community Colleges

MEMORANDUM
October 12, 2026

ESS 26-69 | Via Email

TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Business Officers
Academic Senate Presidents
Articulation Officers
Transfer Center Directors

FROM: James E. Todd, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

RE: UC Merced Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) Initiative

Purpose

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is pleased to announce, in partnership with the University of California, Merced, a significant new transfer opportunity for California Community College students. UC Merced is now participating in the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) pathway through an initial set of approved ADT pathways connecting California Community College degrees with corresponding UC Merced bachelor's degree programs.

This effort represents an important step toward expanding equitable access to baccalaureate attainment at the University of California. By creating clearer, more affordable, and more predictable routes from California's community colleges to UC Merced, the initiative will help more students from diverse backgrounds, regions, and communities pursue their educational goals.

Background

UC Merced is using California's statewide Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) as the foundation for its initial ADT pathways and will recognize the corresponding approved ADTs awarded by any California Community College that offers the degree. This statewide foundation allows students to pursue an approved ADT at a California community college while benefiting from a clearly defined pathway to UC Merced.

This announcement represents the first phase of the work. The specific ADT pathways and corresponding UC Merced degree programs approved for this initial phase are identified below.

Additional pathways are expected to be added in the future as the partnership grows and creates new opportunities for California Community College students.

Requirements and Pathway Benefits

To participate, students must:

- complete an ADT approved for one of UC Merced's initial pathways (listed below) and associated with the UC Merced major to which they apply
- complete and receive certification of Cal-GETC (or IGETC), as applicable to the pathway
- earn a minimum 2.4 GPA in UC-transferable coursework
- indicate on the UC application that they plan to complete an ADT
- complete the ADT before enrolling at UC Merced
- fulfill all UC application and verification requirements

Students who complete an approved ADT and satisfy all of the requirements above will not be required to complete the UC seven-course pattern separately. For purposes of this initiative, UC Merced will accept the approved ADT—and the TMC-based lower-division preparation it represents—as satisfying that pattern.

Through the initial approved ADT pathways, UC Merced is providing the following for qualified students:

- **Guaranteed admission** to UC Merced
- **Junior standing** upon transfer
- **A $4,000 annual scholarship** for up to two consecutive academic years, subject to continued good standing and applicable eligibility requirements
- Access to **UC Merced's Promise housing**
- A clearly defined pathway requiring **no more than 60 additional units** to complete a bachelor's degree at UC Merced
- **No TAG** (Transfer Admission Guarantee) **necessary**

Initial Approved Pathways

The initial approved pathways include:

- Anthropology AA-T to Anthropology, B.A.
- Biology AS-T to Biological Sciences, B.A., including the Education emphasis

- Biology AS-T to Biological Sciences, B.S., including the Developmental Biology, Education, General Biology, Human Biology, Microbiology and Immunology, and Molecular and Cell Biology emphases
- Elementary Teacher Education AA-T to Liberal Studies, B.A.
- History AA-T to History, B.A., including the Teaching Social Science emphasis
- Social Justice Studies AA-T to Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, B.A., including the Teaching Social Science emphasis
- Political Science AA-T to Political Science, B.A., including the American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Law and Policy emphases. (These mappings are currently pending final approval.)

More ADT pathways are expected to be added or updated, and colleges and students should review UC Merced's current pathway information before applying. (For example, UC Merced is currently reviewing the Biology 2.0 structure, and more information will be available soon.)

College Implementation and Advising

The Chancellor's Office encourages colleges to share this opportunity broadly with students and incorporate the approved pathways into transfer advising and degree-planning conversations. In particular, college leaders are encouraged to:

- Share this information with counselors, articulation officers, transfer center directors, faculty, and other staff who support transfer-intending students
- Review the initial ADT-to-UC Merced pathway mappings and incorporate them into student education planning and transfer advising
- Help interested, eligible students understand the admission, ADT completion, general education, GPA, scholarship, and verification requirements
- Direct students to UC Merced's website for the most current pathway information before they apply

Looking Ahead

This initial phase marks an important milestone in the shared commitment of the California Community Colleges and UC Merced to strengthen transfer and expand equitable access to bachelor's degree attainment. The partnership is expected to grow as additional ADT pathways and transfer opportunities are developed to serve more California Community College students throughout the state.

The Chancellor's Office looks forward to continuing this work with UC Merced and colleges across the system. Together, we can reduce uncertainty for students, strengthen connections between

the community colleges and the University of California, and create more direct routes to baccalaureate attainment for Californians from every region and background.

Contacts and Resources

For current program information, please visit the UC Merced Transfer Admission Requirements webpage.

Questions about the UC Merced ADT Initiative may be directed to Vivian Chan, Deputy Director of Admissions at VivianChan@UCMerced.edu or the Chancellor's Office at Transfer@CCCCO.edu.

cc: Sonya Christian, Chancellor
Rowena Tomaneng, Deputy Chancellor
Chris Ferguson, Executive Vice Chancellor of Finance and Strategic Initiatives
John Hetts, Executive Vice Chancellor of Research, Analytics, and Data
Renee Craig-Marius, Vice Chancellor of Student Services and Support
Jessica Fagan, Dean of Academic Affairs