

REFERENCE TITLE: community colleges; baccalaureate degrees; reports

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SB 1504

Introduced by
Senator Farnsworth

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-1444.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Heading change

3 The article heading of title 15, chapter 12, article 2, Arizona
4 Revised Statutes, is changed from "STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR COMMUNITY
5 COLLEGES" to "ANNUAL REPORT".

6 Sec. 2. Section 15-1444.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
7 read:

8 15-1444.01. Baccalaureate degree programs; notice; reporting
9 requirements; definitions

10 A. Each community college that offers a baccalaureate degree
11 program pursuant to section 15-1444, subsection B, paragraph 16 or 17 must
12 meet both of the following:

13 1. All applicable regional accreditation requirements.

14 2. All applicable state licensure requirements.

15 B. When determining whether to offer a baccalaureate degree program
16 pursuant to section 15-1444, subsection B, paragraph 16 or 17, the
17 district board shall make its determination based on all of the following
18 criteria:

19 1. Whether the community college can demonstrate both:

20 (a) Workforce need for the baccalaureate degree program in the
21 region served by the community college.

22 (b) Student demand for the baccalaureate degree program.

23 2. A financial analysis that shows the short-term and long-term
24 impacts to initiate and sustain the baccalaureate degree program,
25 including all of the following:

26 (a) The source of monies.

27 (b) Facilities requirements.

28 (c) Faculty.

29 (d) Personnel.

30 (e) Administrative costs.

31 3. Whether the baccalaureate degree program would unnecessarily
32 duplicate the degree programs offered by other institutions of higher
33 education in this state.

34 4. The ability of the community college to support the
35 baccalaureate degree program with student enrollment and the adequacy of
36 the community college's facilities, faculty, administration, libraries and
37 other resources.

38 C. A community college that is within a community college district
39 located in the same county as the main campus of any public university and
40 that is developing a baccalaureate degree program shall notify the public
41 university whose main campus is located in the same county as the
42 community college district at least sixty days before submitting the
43 report prescribed in subsection D of this section to the district board.
44 Within thirty days after the date the community college submits the
45 notice, the public university may provide a written response to the

1 district board for its review. This subsection does not allow a public
2 university to prevent a community college from offering a baccalaureate
3 degree program.

4 D. Before the district board authorizes a community college to
5 offer a baccalaureate degree program pursuant to section 15-1444,
6 subsection B, paragraph 16 or 17, the community college must submit a
7 report to the district board that includes all of the following
8 information:

- 9 1. The name of the proposed academic degree program.
- 10 2. The academic department that will offer the proposed degree
11 program.
- 12 3. Whether the instructional modality would be immersion or online,
13 or both.
- 14 4. The total credit hours necessary to complete the degree program.
- 15 5. The proposed inception term.
- 16 6. A brief description of the proposed degree program.
- 17 7. A learning outcomes and assessment plan, including:
 - 18 (a) Concepts.
 - 19 (b) Competencies.
 - 20 (c) Assessment methods and measures.
- 21 8. The projected enrollment by year for the first three years the
22 degree program is offered.
- 23 9. Evidence of market demand for the proposed degree program.
- 24 10. Similar degree programs offered at other institutions of higher
25 education in this state.
- 26 11. The new resources required, including a long-term plan for
27 faculty recruitment that indicates the ability to pay the increased
28 salaries of doctoral faculty and identifies recruitment strategies for new
29 faculty.
- 30 12. Any written responses provided by a public university pursuant
31 to subsection C of this section.

32 E. Each community college that offers a baccalaureate degree
33 program pursuant to section 15-1444, subsection B, paragraph 16 or 17
34 shall submit a report to the joint legislative audit committee on or
35 before October 1 of the fifth year after initially offering that
36 baccalaureate degree program. The report shall review the first five years
37 of the baccalaureate degree program at the community college and shall
38 include all of the following:

- 39 1. The number of:
 - 40 (a) All baccalaureate degree programs implemented at the community
41 college.
 - 42 (b) Applicants to each baccalaureate degree program.
 - 43 (c) Persons who are admitted into each baccalaureate degree
44 program.
 - 45 (d) Persons who are enrolled in each baccalaureate degree program.

1 (e) Persons who received degrees from each baccalaureate degree
2 program.

3 2. The costs of each baccalaureate degree program, including cost
4 per degree and the funding sources that were used to finance each degree
5 program.

6 3. Current trends in workforce demands that require four-year
7 degrees in each specific baccalaureate degree program offered.

8 4. Current completion and continuation rates, if available, for
9 each cohort of students participating in each baccalaureate degree
10 program.

11 5. Information on the impact of each baccalaureate degree program
12 on underserved and underprepared students.

13 6. The extent to which each baccalaureate degree program fulfills
14 identified workforce needs for new baccalaureate degree programs.

15 7. Information on the places of employment of students and the
16 subsequent job placement of graduates of each baccalaureate degree
17 program.

18 8. For each baccalaureate degree program, the costs to students,
19 the amount of financial aid offered and the student debt levels of
20 graduates.

21 9. Time-to-degree rates and completion rates for each baccalaureate
22 degree program.

23 F. Each community college district that offers a baccalaureate
24 degree program shall include all of the following in its annual report
25 required by section 15-1427:

26 1. The total number of students pursuing a baccalaureate degree at
27 the community college district pursuant to this section, **DISAGGREGATED BY**
28 **BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM.**

29 **2. THE PROJECTED ENROLLMENT FOR EACH BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM.**

30 ~~2.~~ 3. The total number of baccalaureate degrees completed at the
31 community college district, **DISAGGREGATED BY BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM.**

32 ~~3.~~ 4. Workforce data showing demand for the baccalaureate degree
33 programs offered at the community college district.

34 ~~4.~~ 5. The average cost of tuition per credit hour for the
35 baccalaureate degrees offered at the community college district.

36 G. For the purposes of this section:

37 1. "Main campus" means the central location of the public
38 university's library system and computer center.

39 2. "Public university" means a university under the jurisdiction of
40 the Arizona board of regents.