
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Connie Leyva, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular

Bill No:	AB 1002	Hearing Date:	June 16, 2021
Author:	Choi		
Version:	April 15, 2021		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Olgalilia Ramirez		

Subject: Postsecondary education: course credit for prior military education, training, and service

NOTE: This bill has been referred to the Committees on Education, Military and Veterans Affairs. A “do pass” motion should include referral to the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the California State University (CSU) Chancellor’s Office, in collaboration with the CSU Academic Senate, and requests the University of California (UC), by September 1, 2022, to develop a consistent policy for awarding course credit for prior military education, training, and service, as specified.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Requires, by September 1, 2019, the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges (CCCCO), in collaboration with the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges (ASCCC), to develop a consistent policy to award military personnel and veterans who have an official Joint Services Transcript course credit for California Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum, CSU General Education Breadth, or local community college general education requirements, as specified.
- 2) Requires the CCCCCO and the ASCCC to review and adjust this uniform policy to align it with policies of other public postsecondary educational institutions.
- 3) Requires, by December 31, 2020, each community college district to have a policy consistent with the policy developed by the CCCCCO, and requires each community college campus to post on its internet website the most recent policy adopted pursuant to this bill. (Education Code § 66025.71).
- 4) Further, requires the CSU and CCC to grant priority registration for enrollment to former members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the State Guard within fifteen years of leaving active military duty. (EC § 66025.8)
- 5) Requires the Board of Registered Nursing to adopt regulations by January 1, 2017, requiring schools to have a process to evaluate and grant credit for military education and experience. (Business and Professions Code § 2786.1)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires the CSU Chancellor's Office, in collaboration with the Academic Senate of the CSU, and requests the UC, to do both of the following:
 - a) By September 1, 2022, develop a consistent policy to award military personnel and veterans who have an official Joint Services Transcript course credit in a course taught on the campus where the student matriculates, with subject matter similar, or equivalent, to that of the student's military education, training, and service, as specified.
 - b) Periodically review and adjust the policy developed pursuant to this bill to align it with policies of other public postsecondary educational institutions.
- 2) Requires, each campus of the CSU and requests the UC, by December 31, 2023, to do both of the following:
 - a) Have in effect a policy consistent with this bill, as specified.
 - b) Post on its internet website the most recent policy adopted pursuant to this bill.
- 3) Makes other technical and non-substantive changes.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "California is home to roughly 1.8 million veterans and over 200,000 active and reserve members of the Armed Forces, many of whom have earned higher education course credit during their service and potentially wish to continue their educational pursuits at one of California's world-class universities. In 2018, the Legislature approved Senate Bill (SB) 1071, which established the method by which CCCs may recognize the JST for transferable credit into degree paths. Assembly Bill (AB) 1002 seeks to build upon this important policy change and request the UC and direct the CSU systems to adopt similar systems in order to support our deserving service members seeking to further their educational pursuits in California." This bill aims to ensure implementation of a consistent policy for granting course credits for military experience at UC and CSU.
- 2) *Military issued transcripts.* The military issues academic transcripts for training and experiences completed by active-duty service members and veterans known as the Joint Services Transcript. Many universities award college credit for those courses based on transcript information and course equivalency recommendations produced by an independent reviewer, the American Council on Education. Their credit transfer recommendations are based on reviews of

military coursework by a panel of university faculty members. Both UC and the CSU use the American Council and Education standards for evaluating the academic credit or prior service of veterans. The bill aligns with this practice as it only applies to military training and experiences formalized in a Joint Services Transcript and evaluated by the American Council on Education.

- 3) *Recognition of prior learning experience.* The determination for how college credit for prior learning, including for military experience, is applied to a degree is the purview of faculty. As such, credit for prior learning practices may vary across CSU and UC. CSU systemwide policies for military education, which are set by CSU's Academic and Student Affairs Division, are updated periodically. Campuses may adjust their individual policies as long as they stay within the guidelines established by systemwide policies. UC also has an existing systemwide policy that broadly authorizes the awarding of academic credit for military education included in a Joint Service Transcript. Both CSU and UC's policies exist absent a requirement in current law. This bill appears to be consistent with current systemwide policies, as well as makes information regarding credit for prior military education easily accessible on each campus website.
- 4) *Parity with community colleges.* This measure seeks to provide parity with the community colleges. Under current law, a similar requirement is imposed on the CCCC. Specifically, the CCCC is required to develop a consistent policy to award military personal and veterans who have an official Joint Services Transcript course credit for specified general education courses. This bill does not limit the awarding of course credit to general education, rather it calls for the policy to address credits in a course taught on the campus where the veteran matriculates similar to their military experience. The general education limitation for veterans at a CCC, in current law, is there to control for the over awarding of credits which is less of a concern at CSU and UC.
- 5) *Related legislation.* AB 2492 (Choi, 2020), was substantively identical to this bill, and was not heard in the Senate Education Committee due to the shortened 2020 Legislative Calendar caused by the COVID pandemic.

SUPPORT

None received.

OPPOSITION

None received.

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