

Program Rule Changes & Implementation

Why would an institution create an embedded associate degree?

The embedded associate degree is designed to be an offramp for students previously or currently enrolled in a bachelor's degree program who stop out or need to (hopefully temporarily) discontinue their baccalaureate education. The embedded associate provides another mechanism to award students a credential even though they have not yet been able to complete a bachelor's degree. The Coordinating Board recommends that institutions review degree program data and identify which programs students are most likely to stop out of with a high number of semester credit hours and no degree.

Are institutions required to create embedded associate degrees?

The adopted rules do not require any institution to create an embedded associate degree. As noted above, the Coordinating Board expects institutions to be intentional and targeted in the development of these degrees.

Can an institution develop general studies associate degrees?

While universities may have a multidisciplinary studies associate degree embedded in a multidisciplinary bachelor's program, universities are not permitted to develop standalone associate degrees including a general studies degree similar to those offered at community colleges. Universities are not permitted to advertise stand-alone associate degrees and the Coordinating Board will, at its discretion, review how embedded associate degrees are being advertised on institutional or departmental websites and recruitment materials. Universities are not permitted to enroll incoming students directly in associate degrees.