



Research Study on Local Program Awards

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November 20, 2024

In August 2024, Academic Senate President, Dr. John Stover requested the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning to provide data that supports Academic Senate discussions on SRJC's local degree requirements. Title 5 updates, associated with Cal-GETC, require SRJC to align its local General Education patterns to the revised Title 5 effective Fall 2025. The research request was to provide context regarding potential effects on student achievement. The award-earning behavior of SRJC students was analyzed for Local Degrees, Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT), Certificates, and IGETC or CSU General Education certifications.

The data presented spans the prior three academic years (2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24). Non-credit certificates, certificates less than 18 units, and Local General Education completions were not considered with the above categories.

For the calculation of average units completed at time of first award earned, Local Degrees and Associate Degrees for Transfer were subdivided into Associate of Arts and Associate of Science categories (Slide 3). Analysis of unit completion yielded the following takeaways:

- The greatest decrease in units needed for completion was seen in AS-Local (-4.2 units), though it remains the award category with the greatest average units completed: 82.0 units.
- In 2023-24, the Associate of Science-Transfer (AS-T) degree (78.1 units) was on average completed with 5.7 more units than the Associate of Arts-Transfer (AA-T) degree, and the Associate of Science-Local (AS-Local) degree (82.0 units) was on average completed with 5.1 more units than the Associate of Arts-Local (AA-Local) degree.

When examining all awards granted in an academic year, Local Degrees were the award type which held the largest proportion of awards across all three academic years, more than twice of ADTs (40.7% in 2023-24 compared to 17.2%) (Slide 4). IGETC/CSU certifications are the second largest award category, at approximately a quarter of all awards in an academic year.

In conclusion, Local Degrees are the most prevalent award type among SRJC awardees. Of the 2023-24 awardees, 61.7% held a Local Degree (Slide 6). For the same year, 50% of awardees held an IGETC/CSU certification, and all IGETC/CSU certifications were held in combination with a Local Degree or ADT. Students with an ADT comprised 32.4% of 2023-24 awardees, of which 31.6% were students possessing both an ADT and an IGETC/CSU certification.