

Introduction to AB Degree Programs

Community College Baccalaureate Association
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19 Conferring States

New York	1970	Georgia	2005
West Virginia	1990	North Dakota	2006
Vermont	1993	Oklahoma	2006
Florida	1997	Colorado	2009
Nevada	1998	Wisconsin	2010
Hawaii	2003	Michigan	2012
Texas	2003	California	2014
New Mexico	2004	Delaware	2016
Indiana	2004	Ohio	2017
Washington	2005		

5 States Authorized But Not Conferring Now

- Arkansas
- Idaho
- Louisiana
- Minnesota
- Utah

BAT

BAS

BS

These are not Liberal Arts degrees

Enrollment Impact

Applied baccalaureate degrees in community colleges usually represents less than 5 % of student enrollment.

Respiratory Care Profession

- 21,000 Licensed Practitioners (California)
- Licensure – Credential and Associate Degree Completion
- 2/3 Associate Degree Prepared
- Only 2 Bachelor's Degree Programs in California
- Movement Towards Bachelors Degree Requirement
 - American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC)
 - California Society for Respiratory Care (CSRC)
 - Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)
 - California Respiratory Care Board (RCB)

Movement Towards BS Degree Attainment



Transitioning the Respiratory Therapy Workforce for 2015 and Beyond

Thomas A Barnes EdD RRT FAARC, Robert M Kacmarek PhD RRT FAARC,
Woody V Kageler MD MBA, Michael J Morris MD,
and Charles G Durbin Jr MD FAARC

Education

A single recommendation regarding RT education was accepted and approved by majority vote:

- That the AARC request the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care to change, by July 1, 2012, accreditation standard 1.01 to read as follows:

1.01 The sponsoring institution must be a post-secondary academic institution accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education and must be authorized under applicable law or other acceptable authority to award

graduates of the program a *baccalaureate or graduate degree* at the completion of the program. *Programs accredited prior to 2013 that do not currently offer a baccalaureate or graduate degree must transition to conferring a baccalaureate or graduate degree, which should be awarded by the sponsoring institution, upon all RT students who matriculate into the program after 2020.*

Movement Towards BS Degree Attainment



Respiratory Therapist Education

Respiratory therapists provide direct patient care, patient education, and care coordination. They practice in acute care facilities, long-term acute care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living centers, subacute care units, rehabilitation centers, diagnostics units, and in the home. Their clinical decisions are increasingly data-driven by scientifically supported algorithms (protocols) to deliver respiratory care. They are involved in research and need to be adept at understanding the practical ramifications of published research. Respiratory therapists use sophisticated medical equipment and perform complex therapeutic procedures and diagnostic studies. They also provide education to patients and other members of the public. Respiratory therapists must possess an in-depth understanding of human physiology and apply that knowledge in the clinical setting.

The continually expanding knowledge base of today's respiratory care field requires a more highly educated professional than ever before. Factors such as increased emphasis on evidence based medicine, focus on respiratory disease management, demands for advanced patient assessment, and growing complexities of American healthcare overall, clearly mandate that respiratory therapists achieve formal academic preparation commensurate with an advanced practice role.

The primary purpose of a formal respiratory care educational program is to prepare competent respiratory therapists for practice across multiple health care venues. Respiratory care educational programs are offered at technical and community colleges, four-year colleges, and universities. Training and education for entry-to-practice as a respiratory therapist should be provided within programs awarding a bachelor's or master's degree in respiratory care (or equivalent degree titles) and all newly accredited respiratory care educational programs must award, as a minimum, the bachelor's degree in respiratory care (or equivalent degree title). Associate degree respiratory care programs which are currently accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) should be allowed to continue in good standing as long as they remain in compliance with all other CoARC policies and standards. The AARC supports existing and future articulation agreements between associate and baccalaureate respiratory therapy programs. Respiratory therapists seeking to practice in advanced clinical settings, leadership roles, research, and in professional educator roles should seek higher education at the masters or doctoral levels.

Movement Towards BS Degree Attainment



ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR ENTRY INTO RESPIRATORY CARE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

I. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND SPONSORSHIP

Institutional Accreditation

- 1.01 Except as provided in the following sentence, an educational sponsor must be a post-secondary academic institution accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and must award graduates of the program a baccalaureate or graduate degree upon completion of the program. For associate degree programs that applied for accreditation or were accredited prior to January 1, 2018, an educational sponsor must be a post-secondary academic institution accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency that is recognized by the USDE. These programs may continue to award graduates of the program an associate degree as long as they remain accredited by the CoARC.

Evidence of Compliance:

- Documentation of current accreditation status;
- Documentation of authorization by a state agency to provide a post-secondary education program (if applicable).

Program Design

- Working Adults
- Hybrid (50% online, 50% on campus)
- 9 Week Terms – 2 courses paired for synergy
- Project-based learning
- Faculty align content areas across courses
- Minimum 2 collaborative assignments
- Culminating capstone project



Baccalaureate Degree Types

- GROWTH DEGREES – education, nursing, dental hygiene, interior design (shift to bachelor's requirement)
- TECHNICAL DEGREES – technical and technology, cyber security, energy, electronics, etc.
- MANAGERIAL DEGREES – leadership and supervision
- NICHE DEGREES – concrete technology

Examples of Baccalaureate Degrees conferred by Community Colleges

BS in Equine Studies – Vermont

BT in Information Assurance & Technology - OK State

BAT in Computers & Information Technology - South Texas College, McAllen, TX

BAS in Applied Business & Information Technology – Maui, HI

BS in Computer Science – Bellevue College, WA

More Examples

BAS – Hospitality Management – South Seattle, WA

BAS in Instrumentation - Great Basin, NV

BS in Energy Management - Bismarck, ND

BAT in Technology Management - Midland, TX

BAS in Agriculture Management - Great Basin, NV

Transfer

Terminal

Applied
Baccalaureate

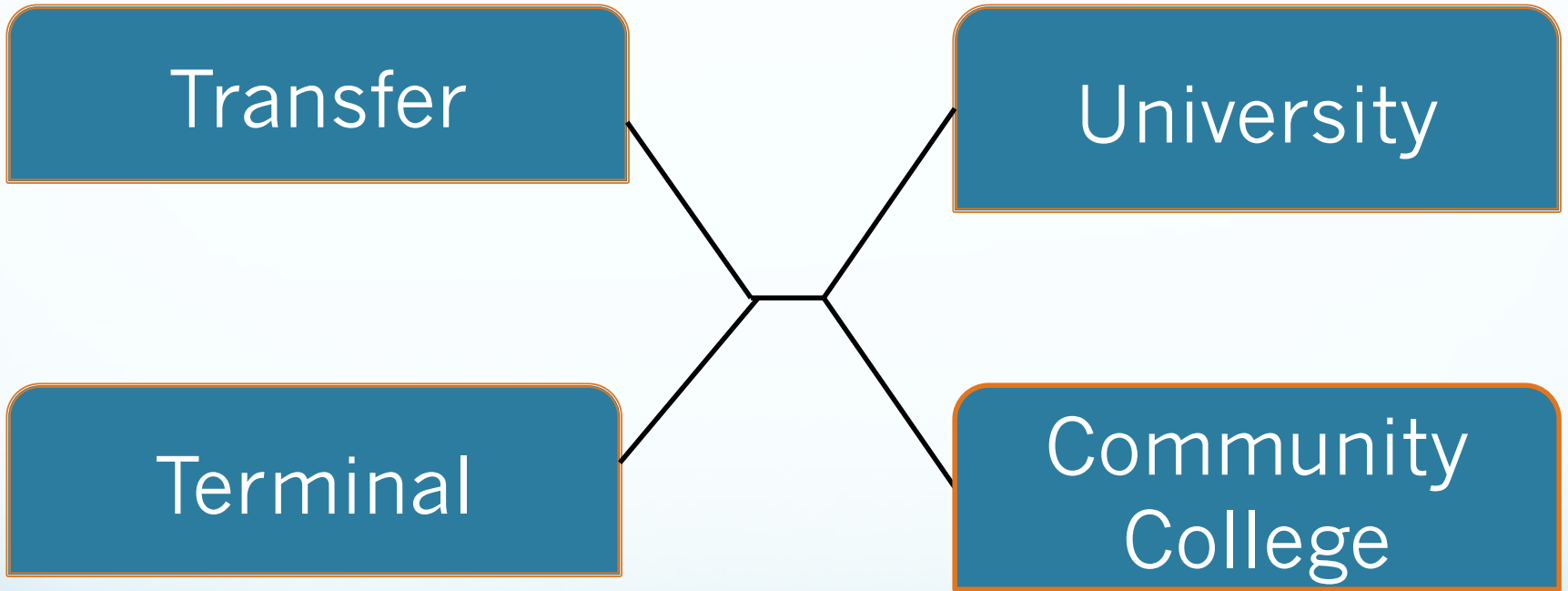
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Transfer

University

Terminal

Community
College

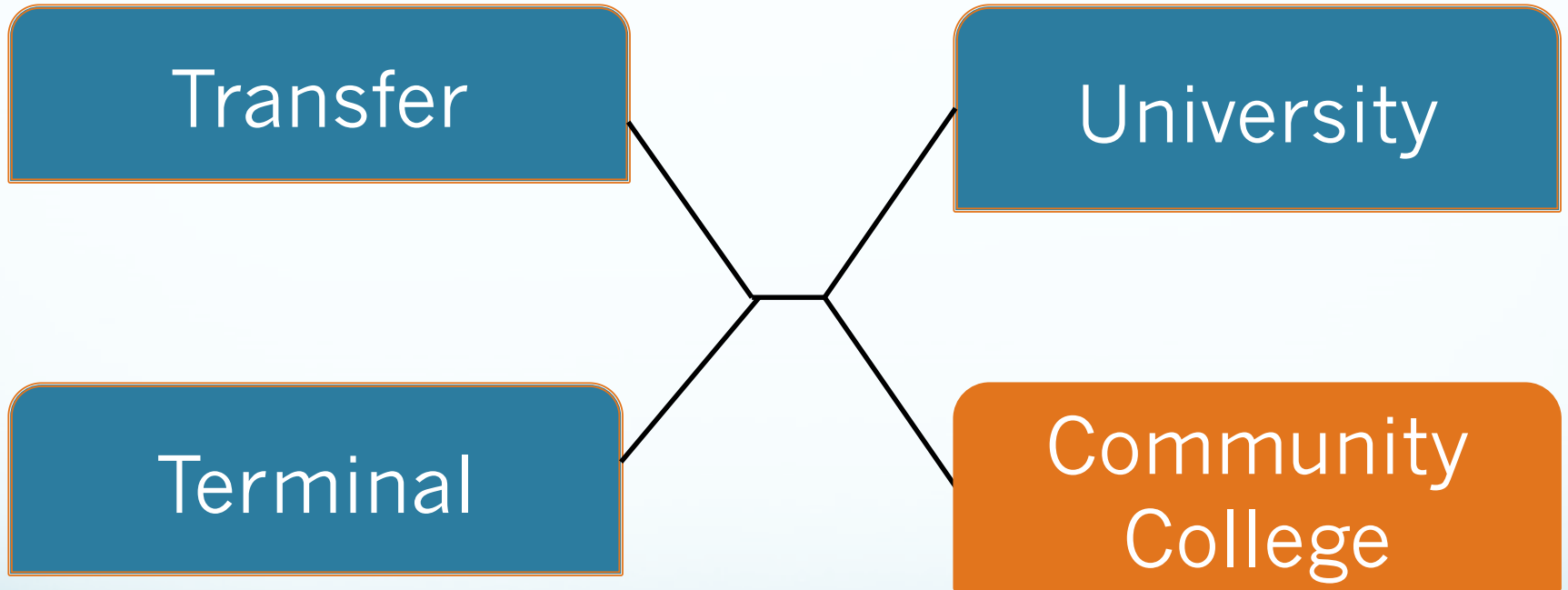


Transfer

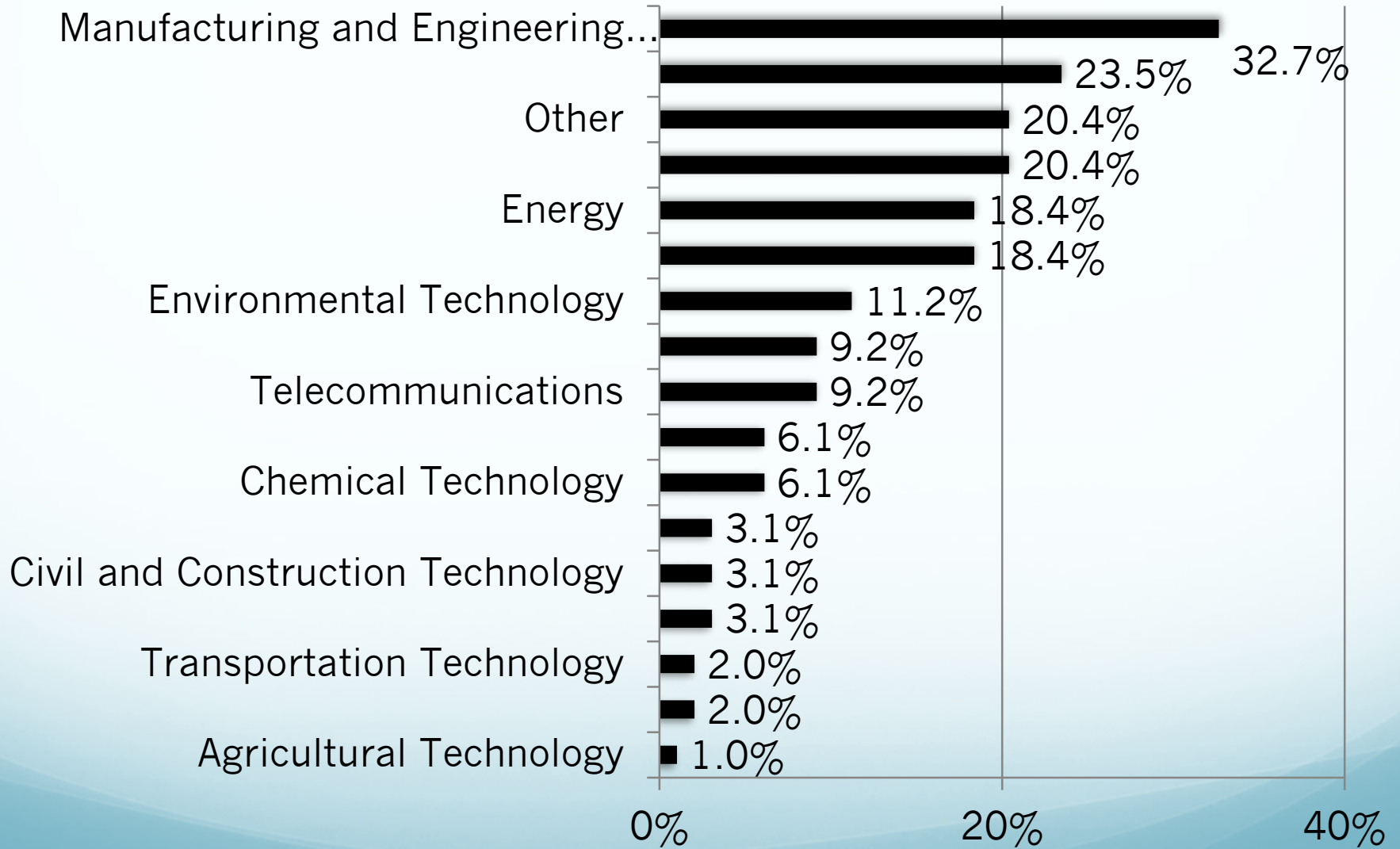
University

Terminal

Community
College



STEM Degree Programs



Percent of NSF ATE Respondents (Bragg et al., 2015)

Michigan