



AB 1891 – Multicriteria Screening for Community College Allied Health

Assemblymember Akilah Weber, M.D.

THIS BILL

Assembly Bill 1891 would permit California Community Colleges (CCC) Allied Health programs to utilize multicriteria screening in their admissions processes.

BACKGROUND

California's community colleges provide opportunities to 100% of Californians who seek them. The CCC's open admissions processes presume there is capacity to admit any qualified student who applies. Due to increasing demand for the CCC's Allied Health programs, there is limited capacity to admit all students who apply. Since 2007, multicriteria screening has provided CCC nursing programs with the tools to admit diverse and academically strong applicant pools amidst limited capacity. Multicriteria screening is an equitable admissions process that utilizes various evaluative metrics to admit a diverse cohort of students with a likelihood of success. Today, 58 CCC nursing programs use multicriteria screening to grow diversity and academic success among nursing students and to address nursing workforce shortages.

PURPOSE

California's health care industry has experienced sustained worker shortages among nurses and Allied Health professionals. As the largest educator of California's healthcare workforce, CCCs play a major role in addressing healthcare workforce shortages. Though demand for CCCs' Allied Health programs remains high, capacity limitations affect the CCCs ability to grow California's healthcare workforce. Multicriteria screening is proven to grow the diversity and completion rate of CCCs' healthcare students.

This bill allows CCC Allied Health programs to utilize multicriteria screening in their admissions processes in order to equitably address capacity limitations while improving the success of admitted students.

Current law only permits Allied Health

programs use lottery or first-come-first-serve admissions processes. AB 1891 would allow colleges to elect to use multicriteria screening, a lottery system, or a combination of multicriteria screening and lottery. This versatility allows colleges to adopt admissions practices beneficial to the unique needs of their district.

As the name indicates, there are several aspects of an applicant's background that colleges consider when utilizing multicriteria screening. These include the student's past academic record and work experience, such as grade-point average and credentials, along with life experiences or special circumstances of the applicant, including disability, low family income, first generation status, refugee or veteran status, and other languages spoken, among others. By taking these criteria into consideration, Allied Health programs would simultaneously improve the academic success and diversity of admitted students. This provides a more equitable approach to managing capacity limitations while increasing the output of Allied Health graduates to join California's healthcare workforce.

California's post-COVID-19 healthcare workforce is at a critical place, in great need of new and well-prepared employees. AB 1891 will aid CCCs in preparing the next generation of healthcare workers.

SUPPORT

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Sponsor)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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