

Your Question:

Since 2018, which states have proposed or enacted legislation related to bachelor's degrees at community colleges?

Our Response:

[This report](#) includes the list of states that allow community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees and a summary of legislative activity from 2016 to 2021 for these types of policies.

As of 2019, 23 states allow community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees. The states include **California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.**

Legislative Actions From 2016 to 2019

- At least 16 states proposed legislation related to bachelor's degrees at community colleges.
- Nine states enacted policies: California, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas and Wyoming.
- Legislation failed in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Except for **Florida** and **Maryland**, the proposed and enacted policies allow, revise or expand the authority of two-year institutions to award bachelor's degrees. In 2017, Florida's governor vetoed one bill, [S.B. 374](#), that would have capped enrollment in upper-level courses at community colleges. A 2018 Maryland bill, [S.B. 1021](#), would have prohibited community colleges from offering bachelor's degrees.

Legislative Actions From 2020 to 2021

In 2020, at least four states proposed six bills related to bachelor's degree at community colleges; however, the legislation failed to advance during the session.

- An **Arizona** bill, [H.B. 2790](#), would have allowed community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees.
- In 2014, **California** established a pilot program for bachelor degree's at community colleges and [A.B. 2776](#) would have created a permanent program at one institution.
- Legislation in **Michigan** ([S.B. 1055](#)) and **New Jersey** ([S.B. 794](#); [A.B. 1759/S.B. 2157](#)) would have expanded the bachelor's degree programs at community colleges that are allowed under existing policy.

Additional Resources

[Community College Bachelor's Degrees: An Update on State Activity and Policy Considerations](#), (Education Commission of the States, February 2020).

The [New Baccalaureates initiative](#) at the University of Washington is researching the implementation of community college bachelor's programs.

In 2021 (as of mid-March), at least four states — **Arizona, California, Illinois** and **Texas** — have introduced 15 legislative actions related to bachelor’s degree programs at community colleges, all of which are pending.

State	Legislation	Description
Arizona	H.B. 2523	Allows community colleges to offer bachelor’s degrees with specified restrictions.
California	A.B. 927	Extends the community college bachelor’s degree pilot program indefinitely, allow more than 15 community college districts to participate in the program and provides for other requirements.
Illinois	H.B. 1933	Allows a specified community college to offer a bachelor’s nursing education pilot program
	H.B. 3619/S.B. 1832	Allows the board of trustees of community college districts to offer bachelor’s programs for early childhood education program.
Texas	H.B. 885/S.B. 740	Indicates that certain requirements do not apply to public junior colleges that are establishing a bachelor’s program that results in a medical certification. The requirements relate to taxable property valuation and whether the district has a four-year institution located in its county.
	H.B. 1220	Allows the Collin County Community College District to offer a bachelor’s program in the field of education.
	H.B. 1566	Removes the requirement that a public junior college may offer a bachelor’s program only if its college district had a taxable property valuation amount of not less than \$6 billion in the preceding year.
	H.B. 3348/S.B. 1300	Repeals the limit on community colleges offering three bachelor’s programs at a time. Allows certain community colleges to offer no more than five bachelor’s programs at a time.
	H.B. 3353/S.B. 2039	Indicates that the Alamo Community College District may not offer more than five baccalaureate degree programs at any time.
	S.B. 1058	Indicates that the Austin Community College District may not offer more than five baccalaureate degree programs at any time.
	S.B. 1485	Indicates that the Collin Community College may not offer more than five baccalaureate degree programs at any time.