

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 26, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 372**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Roger Hernández  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Blumenfield, Hueso, Huffman,  
Jeffries, Lara, Pan, Williams, and Yamada)**

February 14, 2011

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An act to amend Section 78212 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 372, as amended, Roger Hernández. California community colleges: matriculation services.

Existing law establishes a matriculation process that brings a college and a student who enrolls for credit into agreement for the purpose of realizing the student's educational objectives. The agreement involves the responsibilities of both parties to attain those objectives through the college's established programs, policies, and requirements.

This bill would require, to the extent that federal funding is provided, as specified, that military personnel and veterans be given a prior learning assessment to determine college-level learning gained in other than a college credit setting. The bill would require the assessment to meet the standards of the American Council on Education, the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, or other equivalent standard for awarding academic credits.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) California has an estimated population of nearly 2 million  
4 veterans, with approximately 30,000 veterans who returned from  
5 service in 2010.

6 (b) Military service personnel returning from service face many  
7 unexpected challenges in assimilating back to civilian life, such  
8 as finding employment or getting a higher educational degree.

9 (c) As of 2010, the job market in California was grim for  
10 workers of all ages with an unemployment rate still above 12  
11 percent. However, among California veterans between 18 and 24  
12 years of age, the unemployment rate was a staggering 25 percent.

13 (d) Each year, millions of military service personnel receive  
14 extensive training experiences equivalent or comparable to the  
15 content in credit classes.

16 (e) Depending on the specialty area, returning veterans have  
17 received significant education in concepts relating to engineering,  
18 management, accounting, leadership, medical treatment, logistics,  
19 and computer systems, among others.

20 (f) A recent Council for Adult and Experiential Learning study  
21 of more than 62,000 adult students at 48 institutions nationwide  
22 showed that students with prior learning experience credit had  
23 higher graduation rates, greater persistence, and needed less time  
24 to earn degrees, compared to students without prior learning  
25 experience credit.

26 (g) Students who are veterans are being denied admission at  
27 higher education institutions at an increasingly alarming rate.

28 SEC. 2. Section 78212 of the Education Code is amended to  
29 read:

30 78212. (a) For purposes of this article, “matriculation” means  
31 a process that brings a college and a student who enrolls for credit  
32 into an agreement for the purpose of realizing the student’s  
33 educational objectives. The agreement involves the responsibilities  
34 of both parties to attain those objectives through the college’s  
35 established programs, policies, and requirements.

1 The student’s responsibilities under the agreement include the  
2 expression of at least a broad educational intent upon enrollment,  
3 the declaration of a specific educational objective within a  
4 reasonable period after enrollment, diligence in class attendance  
5 and completion of assigned coursework, and the completion of  
6 courses and maintenance of progress toward an educational goal  
7 according to standards established by the college, the district, and  
8 the state.

9 (b) Matriculation services to be made available by the colleges  
10 shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

11 (1) Processing of the application for admission.

12 (2) Orientation and preorientation services designed to provide  
13 to students, on a timely basis, information concerning campus  
14 procedures, academic expectations, financial assistance, and any  
15 other matters the college or district finds appropriate.

16 (3) Assessment and counseling upon enrollment, which shall  
17 include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

18 (A) Administration of assessment instruments to determine  
19 student competency in computational and language skills.

20 (B) Assistance to students in the identification of aptitudes,  
21 interests and educational objectives, including, but not limited to,  
22 associate of arts degrees, transfer for baccalaureate degrees, and  
23 vocational certificates and licenses.

24 (C) Evaluation of student study and learning skills.

25 (D) Referral to specialized support services as needed, including,  
26 but not limited to, federal, state, and local financial assistance;  
27 health services; campus employment placement services; extended  
28 opportunity programs and services provided pursuant to Article 8  
29 (commencing with Section 69640) of Chapter 2 of Part 42; campus  
30 child care services provided pursuant to Article 4 (commencing  
31 with Section 8225) of Chapter 2 of Part 6; programs that teach  
32 English as a second language; and disabled student services  
33 provided pursuant to Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 67300)  
34 of Part 40.

35 (E) Advisement concerning course selection.

36 (F) (i) For military service personnel and veterans, the provision  
37 of a prior learning assessment of college-level learning gained in  
38 other than a college credit setting. The prior learning assessment  
39 will be determined by relevant faculty and related equivalent  
40 educational credit will be awarded that meets the standards of the

1 American Council on Education, the Council for Adult and  
2 Experiential Learning, or other equivalent standard for awarding  
3 academic credits.

4 (ii) Districts shall only be required to implement clause (i) to  
5 the extent that reimbursement for the prior learning assessment is  
6 provided by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant  
7 ~~to provisions of the federal Montgomery GI Bill (38 U.S.C. Sec.~~  
8 ~~3001 et seq.);~~ *to provisions of the federal Post-9/11 Veterans*  
9 *Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-252) or any*  
10 *other federal act establishing veterans education benefits.*

11 (4) Postenrollment evaluation of each student's progress, and  
12 required advisement or counseling for students who are enrolled  
13 in remedial courses, who have not declared an educational objective  
14 as required, or who are on academic probation, as defined by  
15 standards adopted by the Board of Governors of the California  
16 Community Colleges and community college districts.