



ALAMO  
COLLEGES  
DISTRICT

# AlamoINSTITUTES

## ABOUT

AlamoINSTITUTES is a system of educational pathways designed to help students achieve their career goals. It organizes the diverse offerings of the five Alamo Colleges into six specialized institutes: Creative and Communication Arts, Business and Entrepreneurship, Health and Biosciences, Advanced Manufacturing and Logistics, Public Service, and Science and Technology. The initiative also aligns educational pathways with local and national workforce needs, preparing students for successful careers in their chosen fields.

2020 Seamless Transfer Pathways-estimated Savings

**\$374** Million



Time to Degree  
2018 - 2023  
ACD: 4.2 to 3.6 years



SCH to Obtain Degree  
2018 - 2023  
ACD: 85 to 74

## WHY

AlamoINSTITUTES was created to address the challenges students faced in their educational journey, such as taking unnecessary courses, prolonged graduation times, and uncertainty about credit transfer to four-year institutions. By organizing the diverse offerings of the five Alamo Colleges into six specialized institutes, the initiative provides clear, structured pathways aligned with career goals. This helps students save time and money, ensuring they only take necessary courses.

**Excessive Credit Hours:** In 2015 students nationally took an average of 92 semester credit hours to complete a 60-hour Associate degree.

## INNOVATIONS

### Transfer Advising Guides (TAGS):

Transfer Advising Guides (TAGs) facilitate seamless transfers from Alamo Colleges to universities by providing the most transferable and degree-applicable credit hours. They are updated annually to reflect changes in university degree requirements.

**Stackable Credentials:** Courses build upon each other to help students progress efficiently toward their career goals. These credentials include Occupational Skills Awards, Enhanced Skills Certificates, Level 1 and Level 2 Certificates, and Associate Degrees.

**Transfer Compact MOU:** The Alamo Colleges District has established transfer compacts with 21 multiple colleges and universities within the South & Central Texas Transfer Compact. The Compact, which began with 7 university partners in 2016, now has grown to 21 university partners, with a continued waiting list.

## INITIATIVE IMPACT

### Academic Impact (\*Objective III)

- **Time to Degree:** Reduce the average credit hours taken and time to degree completion from **4.2 in 2018 to 3.6 years in 2023**, leading to improved student completion, retention, and graduation rates.

### Economic Impact (\*Objective II)

- **Significant Cost Savings:** Provides substantial financial savings for students transferring to both public and private universities. The estimated savings for students who transferred and followed TAGs were estimated at **\$374 million**

### Student Success (\*Objective I)

- **Savings and Seamless Transfers:** Students save time and money by avoiding unnecessary courses and minimizing credit loss during transfers. TAGs ensure smooth transitions to four-year institutions with minimal credit loss.

## \*ACD STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**I: Student Success**

**II: Principle-Centered Leadership**

**III: Performance Excellence**

