The California State University

The individual California State Colleges were brought together as a system by the Donahoe Higher Education Act of 1960. In 1972, the system became the California State University and Colleges, and in 1982 the system became the California State University. Today, the campuses of the CSU include comprehensive and polytechnic universities and, since July 1995, the California Maritime Academy, a specialized campus.

The oldest campus – San José State University – was founded in 1857 and became the first institution of public higher education in California. The newest – CSU Channel Islands – opened in fall 2002, with freshmen arriving in fall 2003.

Responsibility for the California State University is vested in the Board of Trustees, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Trustees appoint the Chancellor, who is the chief executive officer of the system, and the Presidents, who are the chief executive officers of the respective campuses.

The Trustees, the Chancellor, and the Presidents develop systemwide policy, with implementation at the campus level taking place through broadly based consultative procedures. The Academic Senate of the California State University, made up of elected representatives of the faculty from each campus, recommends academic policy to the Board of Trustees through the Chancellor.

Academic excellence has been achieved by the California State University through a distinguished faculty whose primary responsibility is superior teaching. While each campus in the system has its own unique geographic and curricular character, all campuses, as multipurpose institutions, offer undergraduate and graduate instruction for professional and occupational goals as well as broad liberal education. All campuses require for graduation a basic program of “General Education Requirements” regardless of the type of bachelor’s degree or major field selected by the student.

The CSU offers high-quality, affordable bachelor’s and master’s level degree programs. Many of these programs are offered so that students can complete all upper division and graduate requirements by part-time, late afternoon, and evening study. In addition, a variety of teaching and school service credential programs are available. A limited number of doctoral degrees are offered jointly with the University of California and with private institutions in California. In 2005, the CSU was authorized to independently offer educational doctorate (Ed.D.) programs.

Enrollment in fall 2009 totaled 433,000 students, who were taught by more than 21,000 faculty. The system awards about half of the bachelor’s degrees and a third of the master’s degrees granted in California. More than 2.5 million students have graduated from CSU bachelor’s degrees and a third of the master’s degrees granted in California.

The 2010-11 average support cost per full-time equivalent student based on General Fund appropriation and net basic tuition fee revenue only is $11,213 and when including all sources as indicated below is $12,117. Of this amount, the average net basic tuition fee revenue and other income and reimbursements per FTE is $4,416, which includes all fee revenue in the CSU Operating Fund (e.g. tuition fees, application fees, other miscellaneous fees, and reimbursements).

The average CSU 2010-11 academic year resident, undergraduate student basic tuition fee and other mandatory fees required to apply to, enroll in, or attend the university is $5,285. However, the costs paid by individual students will vary depending on campus, program, and whether a student is part-time, full-time, resident, or nonresident.

### Average Support Cost Per Full-time Equivalent Student and Sources of Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Funds</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Average Cost Per FTE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Support Cost</td>
<td>$4,182,249,000</td>
<td>$12,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–State Appropriation</td>
<td>$2,617,435,000</td>
<td>7,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–Net Basic Tuition Fee Revenues</td>
<td>$1,244,603,000</td>
<td>3,512</td>
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<tr>
<td>–Other Income and Reimbursements</td>
<td>$320,211,000</td>
<td>904</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 State Appropriation includes a decrease of $106 million reflecting a shift of costs on a one-time basis to the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.

2 Net Basic Tuition fee revenue and other income represents campus 2010-11 final budget revenues submitted, as well as reimbursements in the CSU Operating Fund.

3 Other income and reimbursements represent campus “other fee” 2010-11 final budget revenues submitted, as well as reimbursements in the CSU Operating Fund.

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The 2010-11 average support cost per full-time equivalent student
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Melinda Guzman (2012)  

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