Welcome to the California State University (CSU) – the world’s largest comprehensive higher education system in the nation with 23 unique campuses serving more than 450,000 students with 45,000 faculty and staff, the CSU is committed to providing a quality education that prepares students for career success, the CSU has created a network of alumni that is so extensive and renowned that it spans across the globe. In 2014-15, the CSU will exceed three million alumni, which includes graduates from all CSU campuses as well as the Class of 1961, the CSU has provided an affordable, accessible, and high-quality education to nearly three million graduates across the state of California. While each campus is unique based on its curricular specialties, location and campus culture, every CSU is distinguished for the quality of its educational programs. All campuses are fully accredited, provide a high-quality, broad liberal educational program and offer opportunities for students to engage in campus life through the Associated Students, Inc., clubs and service learning. Through leading-edge programs, superior teaching and extensive workforce training opportunities, CSU students graduate with the critical thinking skills, industry knowledge and hands-on experience necessary for employment and career advancement.

More than 50-Year Tradition of Excellence

Since 1961, the CSU has provided an affordable, accessible, and high-quality education to nearly three million graduates across the state of California. While each campus is unique based on its curricular specialties, location and campus culture, every CSU is distinguished for the quality of its educational programs. All campuses are fully accredited, provide a high-quality, broad liberal educational program and offer opportunities for students to engage in campus life through the Associated Students, Inc., clubs and service learning. Through leading-edge programs, superior teaching and extensive workforce training opportunities, CSU students graduate with the critical thinking skills, industry knowledge and hands-on experience necessary for employment and career advancement.

Facts

• CSU faculty attract more than $580 million annually in research and education grants, and contracts by federal, state, and regional agencies.
• One in every 10 employees in California is a CSU alumnus.
• The CSU awards 45 percent of the bachelor’s degrees earned in California.
• More than half of all the nurses in the state earn their degrees from the CSU.
• The CSU awards 95 percent of the hospitality/tourism degrees in the state.
• Nearly half of all of the state’s engineers earn their degrees from the CSU.
• The CSU is the leading provider of teacher preparation programs in the state.
• The CSU offers more than 115 fully online hybrid degree programs.
• The CSU offers 3,250 online courses to provide more educational options to students who may prefer an online format to a traditional classroom setting.
• The CSU’s growing online concurrent enrollment program gives students the ability to enroll in courses offered by other campuses in the CSU system.
• The CSU serves more than 5,000 individuals annually through professional development certificate programs in educational health services, business and technology, leisure and hospitality, manufacturing, international trade, and many other industries.
• Nearly half of the CSU’s 450,000 students are engaged in some type of community service, totaling 32 million hours of service annually.
• More than 9,000 students participate in STEM (science, technology engineering, and mathematics) service-learning courses.
• For every $1 that the state invests in the CSU, the university generates $5.43 for California’s economy.

Governance

The system is governed by the Board of Trustees, most of whom are appointed by the governor and serve with faculty and student representatives. The CSU Chancellor is the chief executive officer, reporting to the board. The campus presidents serve as the campus-level chief executive officers. The trustees, chancellor, and presidents develop systemwide educational policy. The presidents, in consultation with the Academic Senate and other campus stakeholder groups, render and implement local policy decisions.

CSU Historical Milestones

The individual California State Colleges was established as a system with a Board of Trustees and a Chancellor in 1960 by the Donahoe Higher Education Act. In 1972, the system was designated as the California State University and Colleges, and in 1982 the system became the California State University (CSU). Today, the CSU is comprised of 23 campuses, including 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.

In 1963, the State Academic Senate was established to act as the official voice of CSU faculty in systemwide matters. Also, the California State College Student Presidents Association—which was later renamed the California State Students Association—was founded to represent each campus student association on issues affecting students.

Through its many decades of existence, the CSU has continued to adapt to address societal changes, student needs, and workforce trends. While the CSU’s core mission has always focused on providing high-quality, affordable bachelor’s and master’s degree programs, over time the university has added a wide range of services and programs to support student success—from adding health centers and special programs for veterans to building student residential facilities to provide a comprehensive educational experience.

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

The total support cost per full-time equivalent student (FTES) includes the expenditures for current operations, including payments made to students in the form of financial aid, and all fully reimbursed programs contained in state appropriations. The average support cost is determined by dividing the total cost by the number of FTES. The total CSU 2014-15 budget amounts were $2,399,439,000 from state General Fund (GF) appropriations (not including GF debt service) and before adding $71.1 million CalPERS retirement adjustment, $1,592,256,000 from tuition fee revenue and after tuition fee discounts (forgone revenue), and $453,018,000 from other fee revenues for a total of $4,444,713,000. The 2014-15 resident FTES target is 346,050 and the nonresident FTES based on past-year actual is 15,568 for a total of 361,618 FTES. The GF appropriation is applicable to resident students only whereas fee revenues are collected from resident and nonresident students. FTES is determined by dividing the total academic student load (e.g. 15 units per semester) (the figure used here to define a full-time student’s academic load).

The 2014-15 average support cost per FTES based on GF appropriation and net tuition fee revenue only is $11,324 and when including all sources as indicated below is $13,396, which includes all fee revenue (e.g. tuition fees, application fees, and other campus mandatory fees) and debt service in the CSU Operating Fund. Of this amount, the average net tuition and other fee revenue per FTES is $5,643.

The average CSU 2014-15 academic year, resident, undergraduate student basic tuition fee and other mandatory fees required to apply to, enroll in, or attend the university is $6,759 ($5,472 tuition fee plus $1,287 average campus-based fees). 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>Average Cost Per FTES</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Appropriation (GF)</td>
<td>2,399,439,000</td>
<td>6,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund Debt Service</td>
<td>296,316,000</td>
<td>819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Tuition Fee Revenue</td>
<td>1,592,256,000</td>
<td>4,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Fees Revenue</td>
<td>453,018,000</td>
<td>1,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Support Cost</td>
<td>$4,741,029,000</td>
<td>$13,396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Represents state GF appropriation in the Budget Act of 2014-15; GF is divisible by resident students only (346,050 FTES) and does not include General Fund Debt Service.
2 A major change in the CSU budget appropriation beginning in 2014-15 is the fold in of state General Obligation bond debt service expense ($197.2M) into the CSU main appropriation and movement of CSU lease revenue bonds debt service from a separately identified appropriations item to the CSU main appropriation item ($99.1M).
3 Represents CSU Operating Fund, Tuition Fee and other fees revenue amounts (net of tuition fee discounts) submitted in campus August 2014-15 final budgets. Revenues are divisible by resident and nonresident students (361,618 FTES).

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- Lillian Kimbell (2016)
- Hugo N. Morales (2020)
- J. Lawrence Norton (2019)
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