

The University's History

CSU Fresno is the sixth oldest in The California State University system. It began with the establishment of the first junior college in California in 1910 and a state normal school in 1911 which, under a single administration, offered two-year programs in general and vocational training and in teacher preparation.

Between 1911 and 1921 a campus was built on University Avenue, then the northern border of Fresno. In 1921, the combined schools became Fresno State Teachers College, authorized to offer a four-year program and grant the bachelor of arts degree in teaching.

In 1935, by act of the Legislature, the official designation became Fresno State College. A variety of degree programs, in addition to those related to the teaching credential, were authorized at that time. Following World War II, expansion accelerated, both academically and physically. In 1949, CSU Fresno offered its first master's degree; today, it offers this degree in 43 fields of study.

Between 1953 and 1958 the college was moved from the old campus site, by then surrounded by the city of Fresno, to a 1,410-acre site six miles to the northeast. In 1961, under the newly created California State College system, the administration and control of the state colleges was transferred from the State Board of Education to an independent board, the Trustees of The California State Colleges. By legislative action in 1972, the state college system became The California State University and Colleges, and in 1982 the system was renamed The California State University.

In Fall 1991, the School of Education and Human Development began offering an interdisciplinary doctoral degree (Ed.D.) in educational leadership, offered in partnership with the University of California.

The present official seal of the university was designed by artist and CSU Fresno Professor Emeritus Darwin Musselman, who also created

the new seal used by The California State University system. It includes the "lamp of learning" and the "book of knowledge." The Latin inscription "Lycem Accipe Vt Reddas" translates to "Receive the light that you may give it forth." The date 1911 refers to the founding year of the school.

Between 1965 and 1968 an approximation of university organization was accomplished on the Fresno campus and the transition to official university status in the state system became effective on June 1, 1972. The university now comprises the Schools of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Arts and Humanities, the Sid Craig School of Business and Administrative Sciences, Education and Human Development, Engineering, Health and Social Work,

Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences, the Division of Extended Education, and the Division of Graduate Studies.

Fresno Normal School, in 1911, had an enrollment of 150 students, most of whom were women. By 1940 enrollment had increased to 2,000 students, by 1964, to 7,500. In the fall of 1992, more than 18,900 students registered at California State University, Fresno.

The presidents, in order of tenure are:

Charles L. McLane (1911-27)
Frank W. Thomas (1927-48)
Arnold E. Joyal (1948-64)
Frederic W. Ness (1964-69)
Karl L. Falk (Acting) (1969-70)
Norman A. Baxter (1970-80)
Harold H. Haak (1980-91)
John D. Welty (1991-)

