

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, 17 of the 19 campuses have the title "university."

The oldest campus—San Jose State University—was founded as a Normal School in 1857 and became the first institution of public higher education in California. The newest campus—California State College, Bakersfield—began instruction in 1970.

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 on the respective campuses.

The Trustees, the Chancellor, and the Presidents develop systemwide policy, with actual 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 of the campuses require for graduation a basic program of "General Education-Breadth Requirements" regardless of the type of bachelor's degree or major field selected by the student.

The CSU offers more than 1,500 bachelor's and master's degree programs in some 200 subject areas. Nearly 500 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.

The Consortium of the CSU draws on the resources of the 19 campuses to offer regional and statewide off-campus degree, certificate, and credential programs to individuals who find it difficult or impossible to attend classes on a campus. In addition to Consortium programs, individual campuses also offer external degree programs.

System enrollments total approximately 314,000 students, who are taught by a faculty of 18,500. Last year the system awarded over 50 percent of the bachelor's degrees and 30 percent of the master's degrees granted in California. More than 900,000 persons have been graduated from the 19 campuses since 1960.

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