

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 was accelerated, both academically and physically. The first master's degree was offered in 1949; today it is offered in 42 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.

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, Business and Administrative Sciences, Education and Human Development, Engineering, Health and Social Work, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, the Division of Extended Education, and the Division of Graduate Studies and Research.

Fresno State College in 1911 had an enrollment of 150 students, most of whom were women. By 1940 the enrollment had

increased to 2,000 students, by 1964, to 7,500. In the fall of 1988 more than 19,124 students registered.

The presidents, in order of tenure are:

Charles L. McLane	(1911–1927)
Frank W. Thomas	(1927–1948)
Arnold E. Joyal	(1948–1964)
Frederic W. Ness	(1964–1969)
Karl L. Falk (Acting)	(1969–1970)
Norman A. Baxter	(1970–1980)
Harold H. Haak	(1980–)

