

FRESNO STATE COLLEGE

Fresno State College, a liberal arts college, is one of the 19 campuses administered by the Trustees of the California State Colleges. It is dedicated to academic excellence, integrity, and freedom. It is committed to developing competent students, citizens, and leaders and to serving the Fresno and Valley communities. The college offers programs of instruction through the master's degree in the liberal arts and sciences in the professions, and in applied fields, as well as in special and interdisciplinary areas. It also provides further educational opportunities to individuals, public agencies, school systems, private business, and agriculture through the continuing education, in-service education, and research programs of the college.

HISTORY

Fresno State College is the sixth oldest in the California State College system. It has developed from 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 college became Fresno State Teachers College, authorized to offer a four-year program and to grant the bachelor of arts degree in teaching. In 1935, by act of the Legislature, the official designation became Fresno State College, and the college was authorized to offer a variety of degree programs in addition to those related to the teaching credential. 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 37 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 1410-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. An approximation of university organization was effected during the years between 1963 and 1968 through the organization of the college into eight schools, each with its own dean. These schools included the School of Agriculture (now Agricultural Sciences), Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Engineering, Professional Studies, Social Work, and Graduate Studies. In 1970 further reorganization resulted in the division of the School of Arts and Sciences into the School of Humanities, School of Natural Sciences, School of Social Sciences, and the Division of Speech-Music. In 1971, departments within the Division of Speech-Music were reassigned to other areas, and Engineering became a division.

Fresno State College in 1911 had an enrollment of 150, most of whom were women. By 1940 it had increased to 2,000 students, by 1964, to 7,500. In the fall of 1970, a record 13,487 students registered and by 1980, it is expected that 30,000 will be attending the Fresno campus.

The Presidents of Fresno State College, 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), and Norman A. Baxter, who was appointed in July of 1970.

ACCREDITATION

Fresno State College is accredited by the California State Board of Education, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. The college is a member of the Western