

FRESNO STATE COLLEGE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Fresno State College is one of the seventeen state colleges administered by the Trustees of the California State Colleges, a board created by Chapter 49, Statutes of 1960. This new governing board was created as the result of studies conducted over several years concerning the future of higher education in California.

A separate governing board for the colleges was recommended in the Master Plan for Higher Education in California which was presented to the Legislature in February 1960. The year 1961-62 was the first year of operation under this new governing board.

FUNCTIONS

The primary function of the Fresno State College, as one of the California State Colleges, is to provide undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree, in the liberal arts and sciences, in applied fields and in the professions, including the teaching profession. Faculty research is authorized to the extent that it is consistent with the primary function of the college and the facilities provided for that function.

At Fresno State College an effort has been made to provide the type of undergraduate and graduate program which will develop competence in an individual as a student, a citizen, and an effective leader. The program of studies provides curricula, including general and specialized courses, designed to prepare students in a wide variety of fields. The program offers educational opportunities in preparation for the professions and for many occupations, including managerial and technical positions in agriculture, industry, business, and government. In its service role for the region, the college provides continuing and in-service education at an advanced level, serves as a consultant center for public agencies, school systems, and private business enterprises, and conducts research consistent with its functions.

HISTORY

The broad nature of the educational opportunities and services offered by Fresno State College comes naturally from its twofold origin. In 1910 the first junior college in California was established in Fresno. The following year a state normal school was authorized. These two institutions—one providing general and vocational training and the other preparation for teaching—were directed by a single administration. As they grew, they were temporarily separated; but in 1921, with the expansion of the courses for teachers to four years with authority to grant the bachelor of arts degree, the two kinds of college service were again united. In 1935 the official name was changed to Fresno State College, with authority to carry on various types of college work leading to bachelor's degrees, either with or without courses required for teaching credentials. In 1946 the college was authorized to offer a fifth year of graduate work leading to the general secondary credential. Three years later in 1949 came another important advancement in the academic program of the college with the authorization for granting the master of arts degree for teaching service. In 1955 this authorization was extended to include the occupational master of science degree, and in 1958 it was further extended to permit a liberal arts emphasis in the master of arts degree. In 1961 the administration and control of the California state colleges was transferred from the State Board of Education to the Trustees of the California State Colleges.