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# The California State University

Welcome to the California State University (CSU) – the world’s largest comprehensive higher education system in the nation with 23 unique campuses serving more than 470,000 students with 47,000 employees statewide. Each year, the University awards more than 100,000 degrees. CSU graduates now total more than 3 million strong, and are serving as leaders in the industries that drive California’s economy, including business, agriculture, entertainment, engineering, teaching, hospitality and healthcare. Learn more at [www.calstate.edu](http://www.calstate.edu).

## More than 50-year tradition of excellence

Since 1961, the CSU has provided an affordable, accessible, and high-quality education to 3 million graduates around the state of California. While each campus is unique based on its curricular specialties, location and campus culture, every CSU is distinguished for the quality of its educational programs. All campuses are fully accredited, provide a high-quality broad liberal educational program and offer opportunities for students to engage in campus life through the Associated Students, Inc., clubs and service learning. Through leading-edge programs, superior teaching, and extensive workforce training opportunities, CSU students graduate with the critical thinking skills, industry knowledge, and hands-on experience necessary for employment and career advancement.

## Facts

- CSU faculty attract nearly \$540 million annually in research and education grants, and contracts by federal, state and regional agencies.
- Today, one of every 20 Americans with a college degree is a CSU graduate.
- One in every 10 employees in California is a CSU alumnus.
- The CSU awards 43 percent of the bachelor's degrees earned in California.
- Almost half of all the nurses in the state earn their degrees from the CSU.
- The CSU awards 95 percent of the hospitality/tourism degrees in the state.
- Nearly half of all of the state’s engineers earn their degrees from the CSU.
- The CSU is the leading provider of teacher preparation programs in the state.
- The CSU offers more than 104 fully online and 69 hybrid degree programs and concentrations.
- The CSU offers 3,253 online courses to provide more educational options to students who may prefer an online format to a traditional classroom setting.
- The CSU’s growing online concurrent enrollment program gives students the ability to enroll in courses offered by other campuses in the CSU system.
- Over the past four years, the CSU has issued nearly 50,000 professional development certificates in education, health services, business and technology, leisure and hospitality, manufacturing, international trade and many other industries.
- Nearly half of the CSU’s 470,000 students are engaged in some type of community service, totaling 32 million hours of service annually.
- More than 11,000 students participate in STEM (science, technology engineering and mathematics) service-learning courses.
- For every \$1 that the state invests in the CSU, the University generates \$5.43 for California’s Economy.

## Governance

The Board of Trustees, most of who are appointed by the governor and serve with faculty and student representatives, govern the system. The CSU Chancellor is the chief executive officer, reporting to the Board. The campus presidents serve as the campus-level chief executive officers. The Trustees, Chancellor and Presidents develop systemwide educational policy. The Presidents, in consultation with the Academic Senate and other campus stakeholder groups, render and implement local policy decisions.

## CSU Historical Milestones

The Donahoe Higher Education Act established the individual California State Colleges as a system with a Board of Trustees and a Chancellor in 1960. In 1972, the system was designated as the California State University and Colleges, and in 1982 the system became the California State University. Today, the CSU is comprised of 23 campuses, including comprehensive and polytechnic universities and, since July 1995, the California Maritime Academy, a specialized campus.

The oldest campus—San José State University—was founded in 1857 and became the first institution of public higher education in California. The newest—CSU Channel Islands—opened in fall 2002, with freshmen arriving in fall 2003.

In 1963, the State Academic Senate was established to act as the official voice of CSU faculty in systemwide matters. Also, the California State College Student Presidents Association—which was later renamed the California State Students Association—was founded to represent each campus student association on issues affecting students.

Through its many decades of existence, the CSU has continued to adapt to address societal changes, student needs and work-