



CAMPUS ACTIONS TO FACILITATE GRADUATION AT CAL POLY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

The following are among Cal Poly's practices that might be considered exemplary in the context of the CSU initiative to facilitate graduation.

1. All undergraduates are required to **declare a major on entry**. Information about career options associated with each major is included in the Cal Poly Catalog and on many departmental websites. Requiring declaration on entry has many advantages, including those listed under Item 6 of the *Items for Campus Plans for Facilitating Graduation*, namely: "entrance to a peer community surrounding the major, offering both social and learning support; the drawing of attention to degree requirements, reinforcing the goal of graduation; and the ability to develop a personal study plan through to graduation in the context of a roadmap to the degree."

Cal Poly's curricula are often described as "upside down," meaning that students can (and do) start to take major courses immediately. This helps to make students very focused on what it will ultimately take to graduate.

2. Cal Poly helps undergraduates to prepare for transitioning to the University, and subsequently provides support for student learning (Item 11), by such means as:
 - a. **"Flash" email communications**
Coordinated by the Admissions Office, eye-catching communications are sent out regularly to entering students in a targeted manner, with important academic and other relevant information.
 - b. **Summer Advising Program (SAP)**
A one-day academic advising and class scheduling activity to assist entering students in preparing for Fall Quarter. Supplemented by *On-Line SAP*.
 - c. **Week of Welcome (WOW)**
A week-long orientation typically attended by most entering students, immediately prior to Fall Quarter.
 - d. **25/35 Program**
An educational campaign designed to persuade students of the need to study at least two hours per unit per week or 25-35 hours per week, in addition to time in class or labs.
 - e. **Residence Hall Programs**
In the *Living/Learning Program (LLP)*, students live in residence halls associated with their academic colleges, interacting with faculty and other professionals in activities and presentations aimed at developing career interests, academic success skills, campus resources, and social interaction. Another residential program, the *First Year Connection (FYC)*, addresses the academic, social, involvement, and resource needs of first-year students, and facilitates their adjustment and assimilation into the University.
 - f. **Student Academic Services**
Services include Summer Institute (a three week residential program assisting students in the transition to university from high school); seminars on study skills; organized study sessions; walk-in tutoring; and supplemental workshops in math and science.
 - g. **Advising Handbook**
Recently published by the Advising Council, this on-line handbook provides students, faculty, and staff with information of a general nature (i.e., not college-specific), intended largely to improve student success. The Council's catchphrase is "Graduate on Time."