

A Brief History of Campus Actions to Facilitate Graduation (CAFG)

In Fall 2003, the California State University Board of Trustees adopted a three-part initiative to improve the effectiveness and efficiency with which students earn the baccalaureate degree. Centrally, the initiative calls for the California State University (1) to increase the academic preparation for college, (2) to improve the community college transfer process, and (3) to identify a clear path to the degree for matriculated students.

Campus Actions to Facilitate Graduation constitutes the implementation project for the identification of a clear path to the degree for matriculated students.¹

In fact, campus interest in improving student success through focused plans and best practices predates the formal Board-level graduation initiative. In May 2002, a CSU Task Force on Facilitating Graduation began its work, co-chaired by Jacquelyn Kegley, then CSU Senate chair, and Louanne Kennedy, then provost of CSU Northridge. The Task Force considered strategies for helping CSU students make progress towards and complete baccalaureate degrees. A completed report was forwarded in December 2002 as “Facilitating Student Success in Achieving the Baccalaureate Degree: A Report of the California State University Task Force on Facilitating Graduation.” It may conveniently be accessed at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadAff/FacilitatingGraduation.pdf>

Subsequent to the adoption of the Task Force report, campuses completed plans for implementing key recommendations for providing students with well-supported, efficient pathways to the degree. These included the development of campus “road maps” to degrees in each major, degree audits by means of which individual students could know in detail their own progress to the baccalaureate, improvements and fresh campus emphasis upon advising, and more. These campus plans were forwarded to the Office of the Chancellor in late Fall 2003. A December 2003 two-day conference on best campus practices in facilitating graduation ensued, and a June 2004 conference focused on the topic of first-year experience courses.

Trustee interest in campus practices has continued at a high level, and a focused set of directives for campus actions was adopted by the Board in May 2005.

¹ Other implementation projects include the Early Assessment Program (EAP), which focuses on increasing the academic preparation for college, and is described at <http://www.calstate.edu/eap/>; and the Lower Division Transfer Patterns project (LDTP), which focuses on improving the community college transfer process, and is described at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadAff/ldtp.shtml>.