Cal Poly’s rigorous hands-on-learning prepares academically motivated students to enter California’s workforce as highly trained, well-rounded professionals who can make a permanent and positive difference in the world. Nestled in the charming college town of San Luis Obispo between the Pacific Ocean and the world-class vineyards of the Edna Valley, Cal Poly provides opportunities and experiences to help students create professional and personal connections that last a lifetime. For nearly 20 years, U.S. News & World Report has named Cal Poly the best public master’s university in the West.

High Magnitude Economic Impact
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo’s annual impact on the Central Coast region and the State of California is enormous:

- Annual spending related to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo ($655.7 million) generates a total impact of $469 million on the regional economy, and nearly $951 million on the statewide economy.
- This impact sustains more than 5,000 jobs in the region and statewide nearly 8,500 jobs.
- Per year, the impact generates nearly $29.6 million in local and more than $61 million in statewide tax revenue.
- Even greater—more than $2.4 billion of the earnings by alumni from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo are attributable to their CSU degrees, which creates an additional $4 billion of industry activity throughout the state.

Cal Poly improves California’s economy with research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

- Cal Poly students have access to state-of-the-art laboratories with a particular focus on the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Cal Poly is home to nationally ranked colleges of agriculture, architecture, business and engineering.
- Cal Poly’s College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences boasts one of the nation’s most prestigious undergraduate agriculture programs. Expert faculty members take pride in their ability to transform students into innovative professionals ready to solve the complex challenges associated with feeding the world in sustainable ways.
- With seven degree programs and more than 1,900 students, Cal Poly’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design is the largest program of its type in the nation. For more than 50 years the college’s award-winning programs and its nearly 12,000 alumni have exerted a positive influence in shaping the planning, design and construction professions.
Nationally recognized for its ability to produce resourceful professionals and innovative leaders in a variety of engineering disciplines, Cal Poly’s College of Engineering embraces a rigorous hands-on learning process that transforms students into highly sought after engineers. The nation’s most prestigious employers aggressively recruit Cal Poly graduates because they are known to “have two feet on the ground and two hands on the problem.”

The Orfalea College of Business challenges Cal Poly’s highly motivated and academically talented students to become tomorrow’s socially responsible business leaders through a learn-by-doing, technology-oriented education that is led by distinguished faculty devoted to their students’ success.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo improves life in the Central Coast region through research, arts and community service.

With more than 3,500 students, the College of Agriculture at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo is the fourth largest undergraduate agriculture program in the nation, and has the nation’s largest agribusiness program. The college awards nearly half of all baccalaureate agriculture degrees granted in the state.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo excels in agricultural research with institutes and centers that specialize in agricultural safety, the study of specialty crops, dairy products technology, irrigation research, urban forest ecosystems, avocado orchard technology and viticulture.

CSU’s success in health and life sciences, as well as in the state’s technical industries, is based on a commitment to provide solid training in the sciences. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo produces more physical sciences graduates who earn PhDs than students from any comparable university in the United States.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo’s College of Science and Mathematics was third in the nation in producing science and statistics graduates from 1995–1997.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo conducts training and research with support from and participation by nationally prestigious companies in engineering, applied technology, transportation management, electric power, environmental biotechnology, coating resources and renewable energy.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo improves life in the Central Coast region through research, arts and community service.

Cal Poly’s Performing Arts Center includes a theater, a 1,300-seat concert hall, a recital hall and a multipurpose pavilion. The university also operates an arts association dedicated to bringing quality performances to the Central Coast.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo offers a unique and beautiful campus that incorporates labs and classes on its main 3,000-acre campus core and nearby 3,000-acre Western Ranches in San Luis Obispo County, and some 3,700 acres in the forested mountains of Santa Cruz County. The 9,000-plus acres, all open to students and used for educational purposes, place Cal Poly San Luis Obispo among the largest land-holding universities in the nation.

A University for All Californians

A university education in California should be open to the broadest spectrum of the state’s population. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo’s engineering school ranks first in California in numbers of Hispanic engineering and computer science graduates.

Cal Poly ranks among the “Top 100” universities in the nation in awarding degrees to Hispanic students the past five years, according to Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education magazine. Diverse Issues in Higher Education ranked Cal Poly among the Top 10 universities in the nation in awarding degrees to Hispanic students. That magazine ranked Cal Poly fourth in the nation in awarding engineering degrees and fifth in the nation in awarding architecture degrees to Hispanics.