GRADUATION INITIATIVE 2025: PROGRESS REPORT 2020

Graduation Initiative 2025 works to ensure that every student at the nation's largest and most diverse public university has the access, resources and support to obtain a degree that's high in quality and value and to maximize the transformative opportunities that come with it. Through Graduation Initiative 2025, the California State University is implementing university-wide changes to increase graduation rates, eliminate equity gaps in degree completion and meet California's workforce needs. Students are the future of the CSU, California and our world, and Graduation Initiative 2025 is creating a new national standard for empowering their success.

As the world shifts rapidly to respond to the pandemic and an unsteady job market, a college degree is more important than ever. Graduation Initiative 2025 will continue to invest in students' education and graduation pathways and empower them to succeed throughout the recovery from COVID-19.
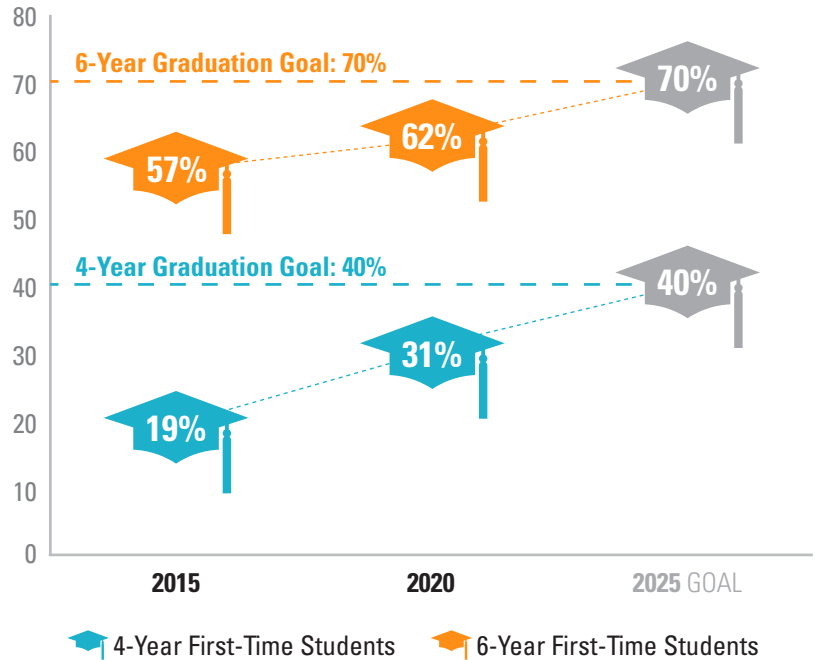
BUILDING ON PROGRESS

Since January 2016, the CSU's Graduation Initiative 2025 has continued to set record completion rates across all categories while closing equity gaps.

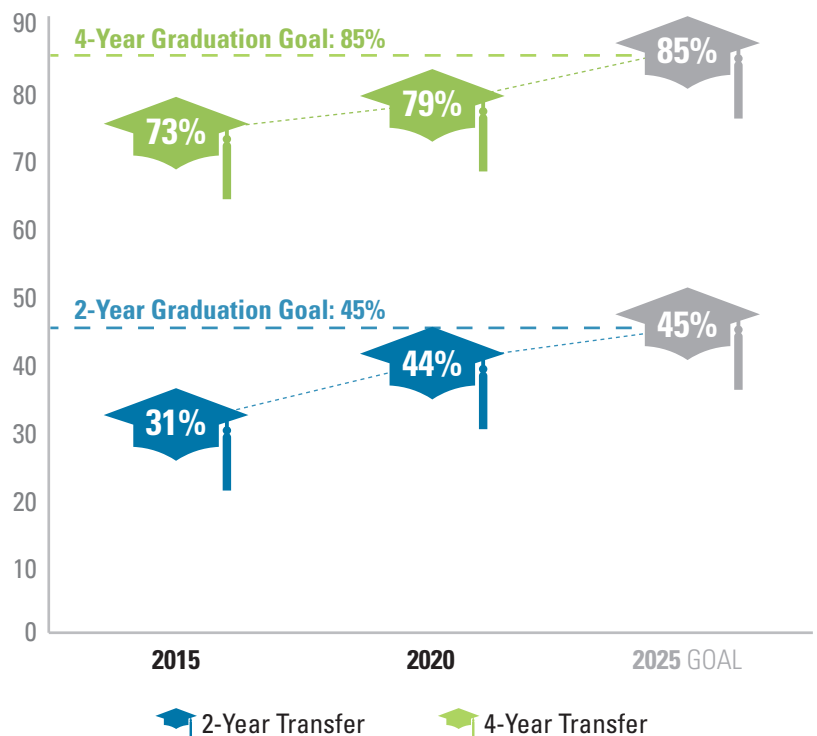An all-time high of 109,450 bachelor's degrees were awarded by the CSU for the 2019-20 academic year.

In fall 2020, enrollment increased to 485,550, indicating students' strong desire for a higher education degree despite the pandemic.

These record numbers go beyond the abstract— each data point represents real students working toward their goals. Graduation Initiative 2025 exists to support them.

FIRST-TIME STUDENTS
GRADUATION INITIATIVE 2025 GOALS

6-Year Graduation Goal: 70%
4-Year Graduation Goal: 40%

	2015	2020	2025 GOAL
6-Year First-Time Students	57%	62%	70%
4-Year First-Time Students	19%	31%	40%

- 4-Year First-Time Students
- 6-Year First-Time Students

TRANSFER STUDENTS
GRADUATION INITIATIVE 2025 GOALS

4-Year Graduation Goal: 85%
2-Year Graduation Goal: 45%

	2015	2020	2025 GOAL
4-Year Transfer	73%	79%	85%
2-Year Transfer	31%	44%	45%

- 2-Year Transfer
- 4-Year Transfer

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STRATEGIES TO BETTER SERVE STUDENTS

Achieving the ambitious goals of Graduation Initiative 2025 requires continued collaboration with students, families, K-12 school districts, community colleges and other partners. Increased and sustained funding are also essential to investing in strategies that boost student success and completion rates. Student success has always been a priority for the CSU, and a sustained commitment to Graduation Initiative 2025 by the CSU, the state of California and other partners is more critical than ever in these challenging times. The CSU has identified six operational priorities to effectively implement Graduation Initiative 2025 efforts, and its 23 campuses are supporting student success by:

Hiring more diverse tenure-track faculty to teach additional course sections and hiring additional academic advisers to support student success.

Strengthening relationships with community and business partners, community colleges and K-12 school districts to prepare incoming students for college.

Supporting data-driven faculty innovation and course redesign efforts to improve student outcomes, especially in courses that have historically high failure rates.

Adding to the number of online courses and concurrent enrollment programs to increase degree completion rates.

Ensuring transfer students enter the CSU with a clear pathway to fulfill degree requirements through the Associate Degree for Transfer program.

Expanding the use of electronic advising tools to improve course-taking efficiency.

ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS

The CSU is also updating the six pillars of its Graduation Initiative 2025. They outline new and updated actions campuses are taking to specifically support students through the COVID-19 health crisis:

Academic preparation: Providing academic and non-academic virtual support for first-time students who need additional academic preparation.

Enrollment management: Communicating proactively to remind students of the critical value of earning a college degree.

Student engagement and well-being: Developing strategies for leveraging technology to reinforce a sense of belonging and to build meaningful social connections across campus.

Financial aid: Identifying additional opportunities to provide students with financial support beyond traditional aid.

Data-informed decision-making: Strategizing methods for collecting, analyzing and disseminating data that provides insight into how the virtual 2020 spring and fall terms have affected equity and student progress toward degree completion.

Administrative barriers: Prioritizing cross-divisional efforts to identify and eliminate institutional barriers to student success as the response to COVID-19 continues.