The goal of Graduation Initiative 2025 is to ensure that every California State University (CSU) student has a fair and equal opportunity to earn a degree, contribute to California’s workforce and thrive in their community. Intentional focus on student success across all 23 universities continues to result in increased student achievement:

- Highest four-year graduation rate for first-year students in the CSU’s history
- 35% of first-time students earned their bachelor’s within four years, nearly doubling the rate since the 2015 launch of the initiative
- Nearly 110,000 students earned bachelor’s degrees—that’s 23,000 more graduates than before the initiative launched

DEDICATION TO EQUITY

The university remains committed to achieving the ambitious goals set at the start of Graduation Initiative 2025 and eliminating equity gaps for all CSU students—particularly for underserved students of color, first-generation college students and students from modest-income families.

EXPLORE THE DATA BY POPULATION:

https://public.dashboards.calstate.edu

PELL EQUITY GAP GOAL

Elimination of equity gaps between Pell Grant recipients and their peers.

UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY EQUITY GAP GOAL

Elimination of equity gaps between CSU students who identify as African American, Native American or Latinx and their peers.
EXPANDING EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE EQUITY GAPS

The past two years have given the CSU a deeper understanding of the effects the global COVID-19 pandemic have had on students’ lives. In November 2022, the CSU announced a $15 million investment in the following efforts to address equity gaps.

REENGAGE AND REENROLL UNDERSERVED STUDENTS
Efforts are focusing on reengaging with students of color, Pell Grant recipients and first-generation college students to support their reenrollment to the CSU and meet their academic goals.

ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO A DIGITAL DEGREE PLANNER
Digital degree planners help students navigate the registration process, select courses and keep them on track for timely graduation.

EXPAND CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES
Summer sessions and intersessions provide students an opportunity to gain more academic credit. This is particularly important for students of color and first-generation college students who may have had fewer opportunities to earn credits because of family or work obligations.

ELIMINATE ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS TO GRADUATION
All universities are reviewing practices to remove unintentional barriers to timely graduation that disproportionately impact underserved students—including fee assessments, registration holds and challenging processes.

PROMOTE EQUITABLE LEARNING AND REDUCE DFW RATES
Without compromising academic rigor, the CSU is addressing equitable learning practices for classes that have persistent high failure rates (such as drop, fail or withdrawal) and providing opportunities for learning support when needed.

MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN
The CSU has identified six operational priorities to effectively implement Graduation Initiative 2025 efforts across its 23 universities.