

CALIFORNIA FACES A DEGREE GAP.... CSU IS THE SOLUTION



By 2025 California will face a shortfall of 1 million college graduates needed to support the state’s economy with a qualified workforce. The PPIC states, “Gradual increases in college enrollment rates, a 20 percent improvement in transfer rates, and an improvement in completion rates at CSU would, together, reduce the skills gap by one-half by 2025.”

With the CSU annually awarding half of the bachelor degrees in the state, increasing the number of students that enroll and graduate from the CSU is key to meeting California’s workforce demand.

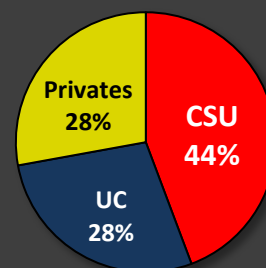
Ways to Overcome the Degree Gap

- ✓ Increase graduation rates
- ✓ Improve transfer pathways
- ✓ Minimize unnecessary units
- ✓ Admit qualified students

Graduating More Students

The CSU launched the [Graduation Initiative](#) to improve student graduation by six percentage points by 2015. Through the focused efforts by campuses and system leaders to strategically improve student success, the CSU is on track to meet this goal. In fact, once CSU makes its target it will graduate 30,000 additional students, despite the dramatic decline in state-funding for the system.

Proportion of Baccalaureate Degree Awarded in CA



Improving Transfer Pathways

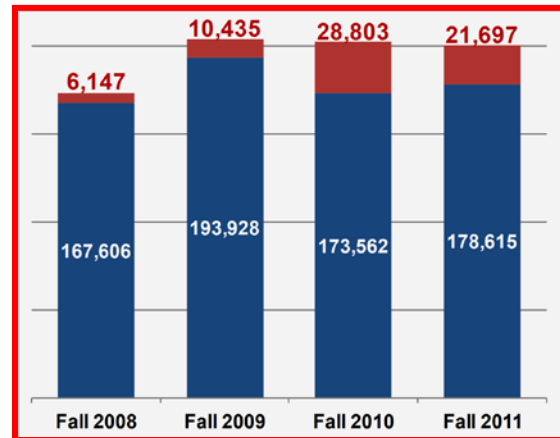
CSU enrolls approximately 50,000 transfer students each year, more than any other segment in the state. Improving the transfer pipeline to enroll more qualified students is critical for increasing the number of college graduates entering the state's workforce. As a result of Senate Bill 1440 enacted in 2010, the CSU and California Community Colleges are implementing an unprecedented effort to streamline pathways for transfer students. Students who complete the newly created AA transfer degrees are guaranteed admission to the CSU and are able to complete their baccalaureate degree in two years (60 units). This work results in all students graduating without unnecessary units – saving students time and money as well as freeing up classes and services for other students.

Reduced State Funding Support: Access Denied for Eligible Students

The ability to increase the number of CSU graduates remains dependent on state support, which funds faculty and staff to serve additional students.

Since the economic downturn in 2007, CSU has turned away as many as 28,000 eligible students per year because of lack of funding, including thousands of eligible transfer students. These students have completed all requirements for transfer and are prepared to complete their baccalaureate degree. Many community college students who are not able to transfer to the CSU will continue to take

classes, affecting the already-impacted local colleges and costing the state money for instructional costs and continued financial aid. In addition, delaying or denying access to eligible students worsens California's projected degree shortfall.



Admitted/Not Admitted Eligible Students

Partnering for Student Access and Success

Meeting California's projected future workforce needs presents significant challenges to policymakers, the state's higher education systems and, most of all, students.

For its part, the CSU is working to overcome the projected degree gap by increasing graduation rates, increasing transfer pathways and minimizing unnecessary units for students. CSU is also working with policymakers to ensure the state is providing the funding necessary for CSU to increase enrollment and provide access for students prepared to complete their degrees and enter the workforce.