

# GRADUATION INITIATIVE 2025

## PROGRESS REPORT 2021



More California State University students are earning their bachelor's degrees than ever before—with nearly 113,000 students walking across their university's commencement stage to receive their bachelor's degrees in May 2021. That's 25,000 more students than the year before Graduation Initiative 2025 was launched. While this is a record-breaking achievement for students and their families stubborn equity gaps, the difference in graduation rates between students from historically underserved backgrounds and their peers, remain the same or in some cases are widening.

The CSU remains dedicated to eliminating equity gaps wherever they exist for all CSU students—particularly for underserved students of color, first-generation college students and students from modest-income families.

### EMPHASIS ON EQUITY

The CSU is the largest, most diverse and consequential four-year university in the nation. Today, it is redoubling equity-minded interventions and data-informed actions by prioritizing strategies that will accelerate the elimination of equity gaps completely.

**PRIORITY 1 RE-ENGAGE AND RE-ENROLL UNDERSERVED STUDENTS** – Reflecting a nationwide trend exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, student retention has decreased disproportionately among students of color. Robust outreach efforts will focus on underserved students including: Pell Grant recipients, first-generation college students and Black, Native American and Latinx students.

**PRIORITY 2 EXPAND CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES WITH SUMMER/INTERSESSION** – Summer sessions and intersessions provide additional credit accumulation opportunities, which can be critical for students of color and first-generation students who often arrive at the CSU with fewer credits. These students are also more likely to maintain jobs while enrolled, requiring more flexibility in their course schedule. Additional funding supports students who may be falling behind in academic credits and helps facilitate timely degree completion.

**PRIORITY 3 ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO DIGITAL DEGREE ROADMAPS** – Digital degree planners help students navigate the registration process, select core courses and keep them on track for timely graduation. The CSU is committed to making a digital degree planner available to all students by summer 2022.

**PRIORITY 4 ELIMINATE ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS TO GRADUATION** – Administrative barriers disproportionately affect low-income and first-generation students who are often more susceptible to academic disruption because of fee assessments or financial holds. Generally, financial holds indicate that a student is required to resolve something before a hold can be removed. Campuses will review administrative processes with an equity-centered framework and re-evaluate drop for non-payment policies, registration hold policies and reassess graduation filing fees.

**PRIORITY 5 PROMOTE EQUITABLE LEARNING PRACTICES AND REDUCE DFW RATES** – Earning a non-passing grade negatively impacts a student's academic trajectory and increases the risk of attrition. Without compromising academic rigor, the CSU will reconsider course design for classes with persistent high failure rates (such as D, F or Withdrawal) and provide learning support for students who would benefit from it.

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### THE CLASS OF 2025

In four years, the Class of 2025 will celebrate earning degrees that are both high in value and quality and will join the CSU's Class of 4 Million, a network of more than four million living alumni. The university's intentional focus on improving students' learning outcomes while eliminating equity gaps means there has never been a better time to be a CSU student.

### BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

The CSU's six pillars of degree completion are the foundation of Graduation Initiative 2025.



#### ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Providing academic and non-academic 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 to reinforce a sense of belonging and to build meaningful social connections across the university.



#### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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



#### DATA-INFORMED DECISION MAKING

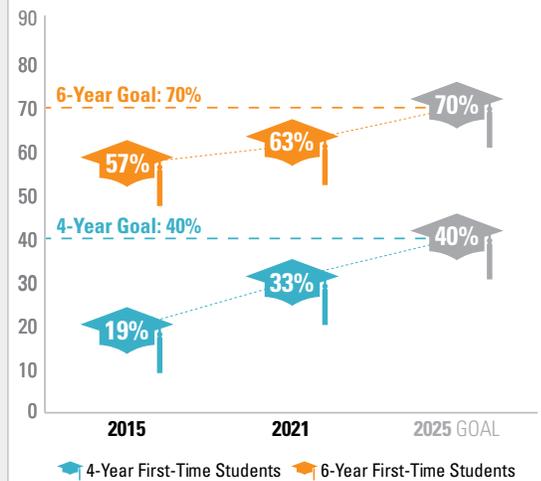
Strategizing methods for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data that provides insight into equity and student progress toward degree completion.



#### ELIMINATING ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS

Prioritizing cross-divisional efforts to identify and eliminate institutional barriers to student success.

FIRST-TIME STUDENTS  
GRADUATION INITIATIVE 2025 GOALS



TRANSFER STUDENTS  
GRADUATION INITIATIVE 2025 GOALS

