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**CSU Legislative Reports Website**  
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March 18, 2022

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## **RE: State Performance Measures for 2020-21 Academic Year**

The attached report highlights the progress made at the California State University (CSU) to improve graduation rates for all students while also increasing access to more Californians.

Ongoing Graduation Initiative 2025 efforts to strengthen student success and improve graduation rates continue to gain momentum. More CSU students are earning their bachelor's degrees than ever before, with nearly 113,000 graduating in 2020-2021, which is 25,000 more completions than the year before Graduation Initiative 2025 was launched. To continue to build on this progress – and to increase access to the university while closing equity gaps – sustained, predictable and sufficient state investment in the CSU will be necessary.

As required by Education Code 89295, the CSU shall report, by March 15 of each year, on performance measures for the preceding academic year and goals for the three academic years

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**CSU Campuses**  
Bakersfield  
Channel Islands  
Chico  
Dominguez Hills  
East Bay

Fresno  
Fullerton  
Humboldt  
Long Beach  
Los Angeles  
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay  
Northridge  
Pomona  
Sacramento  
San Bernardino  
San Diego

San Francisco  
San José  
San Luis Obispo  
San Marcos  
Sonoma  
Stanislaus

**CSU Report: State Performance Measures for 2020-21 Academic Year**

March 18, 2022

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immediately following, to inform budget and policy decisions and promote the effective and efficient use of available resources. Enclosed is the CSU's report highlighting progress in state performance measures and an appendix of the data tables for each of the required performance measures.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact Eric Bakke, Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor, Advocacy and State Relations at (916) 445-5983.

Sincerely,



Bradley Wells (Mar 18, 2022 14:22 PDT)

Steve Relyea  
Executive Vice Chancellor and  
Chief Financial Officer

SR:dr

Full report posted to <https://www.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/government/Advocacy-and-State-Relations/Pages/legislative-reports.aspx>

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## **Progress in Performance Measures**

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**Graduation Initiative 2025: A Focus on Access and Equity**

## 1 Introduction

The last two years have been challenging for students and their families throughout California. Despite the disruptive nature of the pandemic, California State University (CSU) students, faculty and staff persevered and, as a result of their efforts, more students earned their CSU degrees last spring than in any other time in the university's history. However, opportunities remain for even greater student success.

The differential impact the pandemic has had among communities of color and modest-income families has placed a renewed focus and urgency at the CSU in addressing growing equity gaps between the most vulnerable of students and their peers. The university has asked campuses to amplify their efforts by pursuing five equity priorities to ensure that all students have access to a earn a CSU degree. Those priorities include: advancing student re-enrollment campaigns across all 23 campuses; expanding credit opportunities through summer session and intercession; providing every CSU student access to a digital degree planner; identifying and removing administrative barriers; and promoting equitable learning and addressing courses with high failure or withdrawal rates.

Ensuring increased access to the CSU, supporting student success and advancing equity, and preparing its students to meet future workforce needs are shared priorities of both the university and the state of California. The university remains focused on driving completion rates even higher, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to graduate in a timely manner and collaborating with intersegmental partners to better serve the educational needs of the Golden State's students. In doing so, the CSU will continue to fulfill its founding mission to produce the graduates needed to power California's future prosperity.

These goals are ambitious and will require sustained, predictable and sufficient state investment in the CSU. Governor Newsom's proposed multi-year compact could provide essential consistency in helping to fund key initiatives that support greater student success.

## **2 Graduation Rates Continue to Rise**

Since 2008, California State University graduation rates have increased consistently. This section of the report demonstrates the continued upward trajectory of graduation rates for first-time, full-time freshmen and students transferring from California community colleges, as well as the growth in the overall number of degrees conferred each academic year.

In addition, projections are provided for the next three years. These projections are based on the linear trajectory necessary to meet the following Graduation Initiative 2025 goals:

- A 40 percent four-year freshman graduation rate
- A 70 percent six-year-or-less freshman graduation rate
- A 45 percent two-year transfer graduation rate
- An 85 percent four-year-or-less transfer graduation rate

These goals are predicated on eliminating equity gaps that exist by race/ethnicity and for students from low socio-economic backgrounds.

As campuses continue to implement their local Graduation Initiative 2025 plans and as systemwide efforts continue, the CSU's graduation rates should continue to rise. While actual increases may not be linear from year to year, campuses are expected to make progress toward their goals over the duration of the initiative and beyond. Maintaining this momentum will require continued state investment in the CSU's student success efforts.

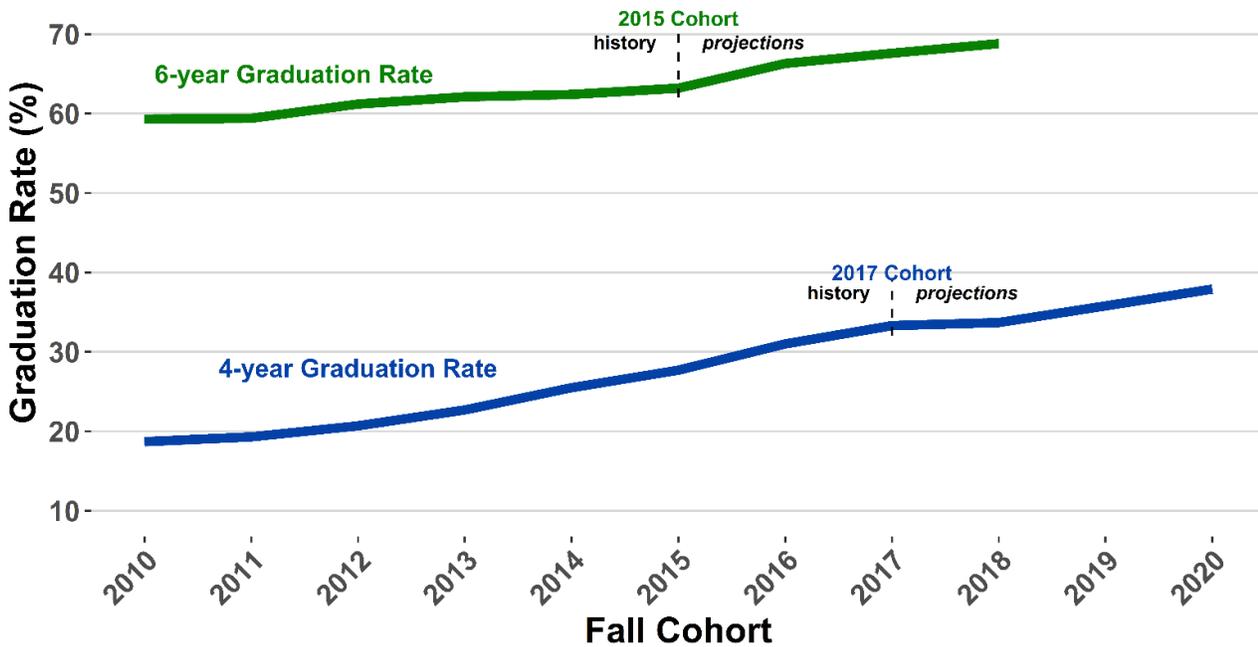
### 2.1 First-time, Full-time Freshmen

As demonstrated in the figure below (to the left of the dotted line), both the four-year and six-year graduation rates for first-time, full-time freshmen continue to increase. Four-year completion rates increased by more than five and a half percentage points for the most recent graduating cohorts. For the fall 2017 cohort, 33.3 percent of students graduated in four years, up from 31 percent for the fall 2016 cohort, and 27.7 for the fall 2015 cohort.

For the fall 2015 cohort, 63.2 percent of students graduated within six years, an increase from the 62.4 percent of students from the fall 2014 cohort.

This chart also shows the CSU’s projections for both the four-year and six-year graduation rates over the next three years (to the right of the dotted lines). Projections are based on the linear trajectory necessary to meet the Graduation Initiative 2025 goals for first-time, full-time freshmen; however, it is anticipated that annual progress will not always occur in a linear fashion.

## Graduation Rates First-time Full-time Freshmen

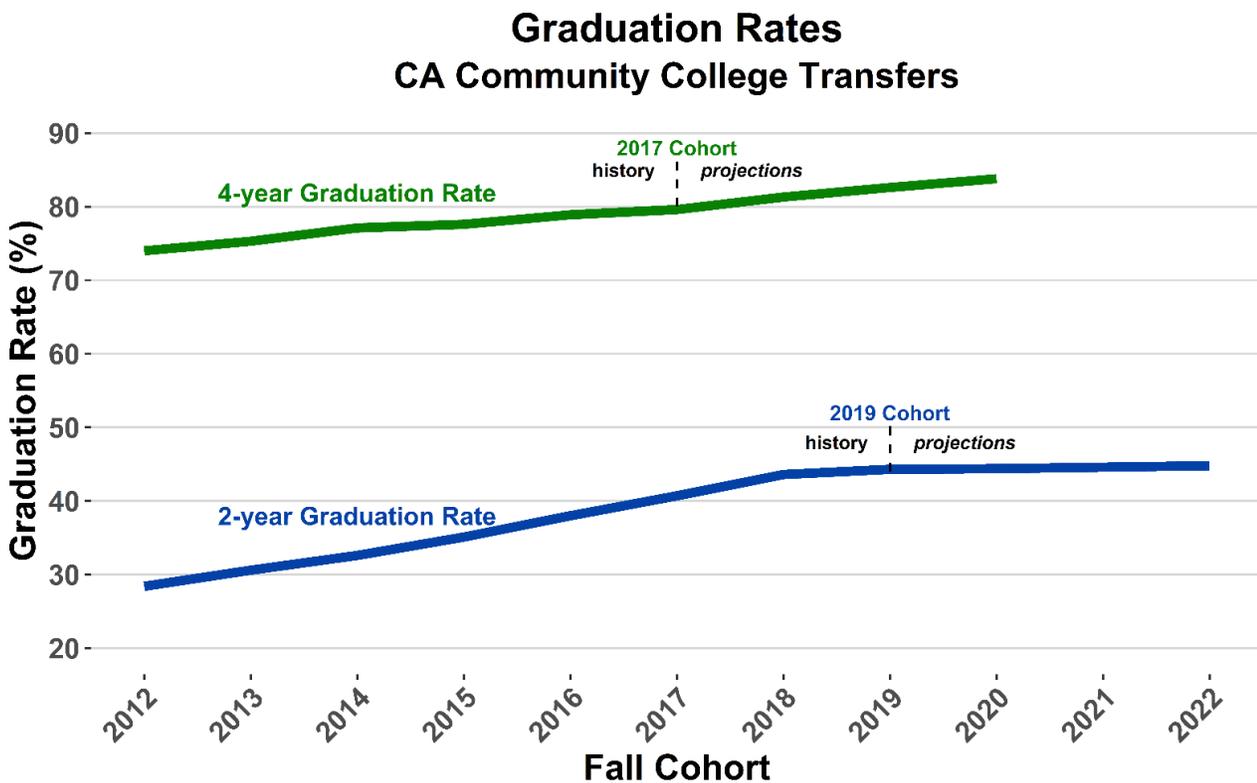


## 2.2 California Community College Transfers

As demonstrated in the figure below (to the left of the dotted line), both the two-year and four-year graduation rates for students transferring from a California community college continue to increase. Two-year completion rates for community college transfer graduates have increased most rapidly in recent years. For the fall 2019 cohort, 44.3 percent of transfer students graduated in two years, up from 43.6 for the fall 2018 cohort and 40.7 percent for the fall 2017 cohort.

For the fall 2017 cohort, 79.6 percent of transfer students graduated within four years, an increase from the 78.9 percent of transfer students who graduated within four years from the fall 2016 cohort. In all instances, the graduation rates increased for both Pell and non-Pell recipients.

This chart also shows the CSU's projections for both the two-year and four-year graduation rates over the next three years (to the right of the dotted lines). These projections are based on the linear trajectory necessary to meet the Graduation Initiative 2025 goals for students transferring from a California community college.

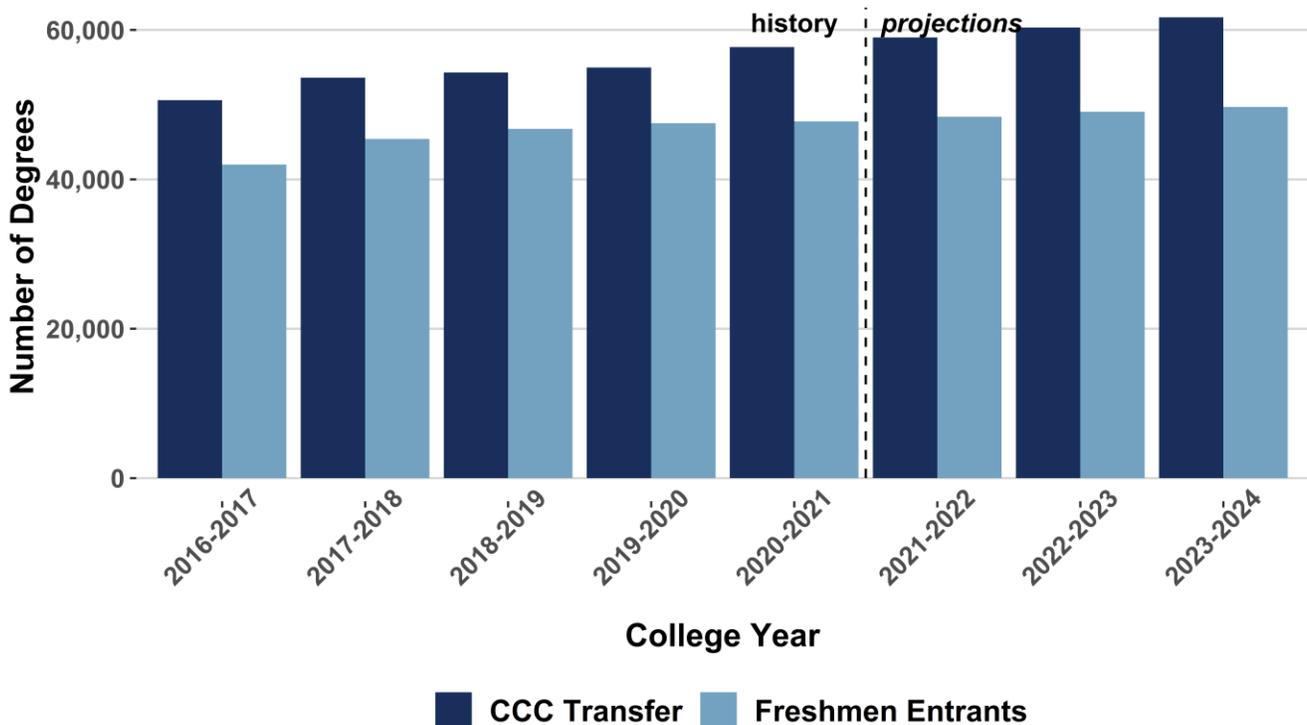


### 2.3 Annual Degree Completions

As demonstrated in the figure below (to the left of the dotted line), the total number of bachelor's degrees conferred at the CSU to freshmen entrants and students transferring from a California community college continues to increase. Since 2016-17, degree completions have increased by more than 11 percent. In 2020-21, 132,617 degrees were earned, a record high for the CSU. This includes more than 112,500 bachelor's degrees, an increase of 3,100 from 2019-20.

With continued additional investment, the CSU will be able to grow the number of new tenure-track faculty, hire additional advisors and add class sections to ensure students have access to the courses they need. With this investment, it is anticipated that the number of degree completions will continue to increase.

### Bachelor's Degree Completions

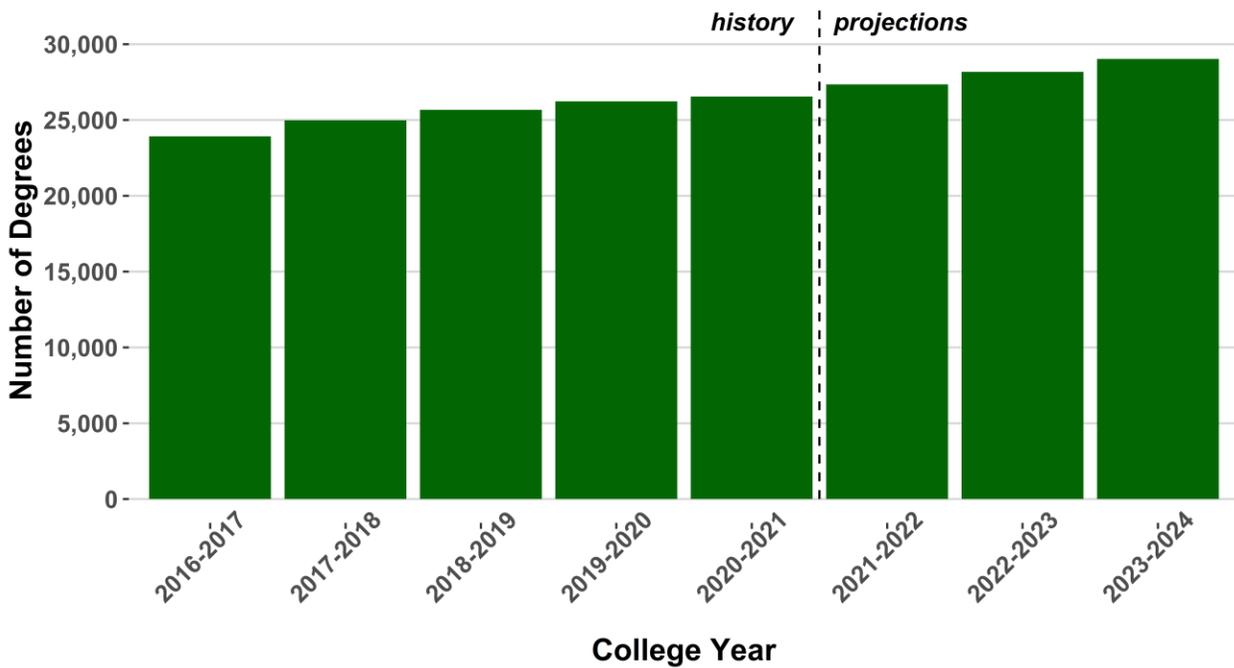


## 2.4 STEM Degrees Conferred at the CSU

There is significant demand in California and across the country for graduates with degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Between 2016-17 and 2020-21, the number of undergraduate STEM degrees earned at the CSU increased by more than 3,700 or 20 percent, as demonstrated in the chart below (to the left of the dotted line).

The CSU continues to take steps to close equity gaps in STEM education by supporting underrepresented students pursuing STEM degrees. As a result, the projections (to the right of the dotted line) indicate expectations that the number of STEM degrees awarded will continue to increase.

### STEM Degrees (Excluding Health Professions)



### 3 Supporting Student Success

According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research center, nearly one million fewer students have enrolled in higher education since the start of the pandemic. The report cites that undergraduate and graduate enrollment dropped by 2.7 percent in fall 2021 compared to the previous year, and 5.1 percent since spring 2020.

The CSU remains committed to ensuring that the necessary resources are in place to support the success of all students. Graduation Initiative 2025 has provided clear direction for the university systemwide through its six strategic pillars to degree completion: academic preparation; enrollment management; student engagement and well-being; financial support; data-informed decision making; and eliminating administrative barriers. Through the addition of the five equity priorities approved in late 2021, CSU faculty and staff are leveraging best practices and shared institutional knowledge to make data-informed decisions on how best to support students.

One key priority that is included in both Graduation Initiative 2025 and the university's systemwide equity priorities is addressing administrative barriers that can create unintended disruptions in a student's academic journey, particularly for students of color, first-generation students and students from modest-income families. Eliminating these barriers whenever possible can positively impact students' ability to graduate in a timely manner.

CSU campuses across the state are considering how to remove financial holds and, in some cases, waive fees and pay a portion of student debt to ensure students can remain enrolled or return to enroll after an absence over multiple semesters. At California State University, Sacramento a new program – the Hornet Debt Reset program – is helping to eliminate student debt for individuals who left short of graduation. California State University, Fullerton helped nearly 1,000 students in spring 2022 remain enrolled by helping to pay down student balances. After discovering that a portion of students mistakenly thought they had enrolled in spring 2022 courses, but did not, Cal Poly Pomona opened a second registration period for them and re-enrolled 600 students. Another 1,800 students had registration holds as a result of past-due balances removed temporarily, allowing them to successfully enroll for the spring semester.

As campuses continue to examine and revise administrative policies their efforts will impact both graduation rates and help in the university's collective efforts to eliminate student equity gaps systemwide.

## **4 Increasing Access Is a CSU Priority**

Over the past five years, new undergraduate resident headcount enrollments increased by more than 10,300 students, with new resident transfer student enrollment increasing from more than 59,900 in 2016-17 to more than 71,300 in 2020-21. Per statute, the CSU is required to project enrollment figures for the next three academic years. While 2021-22 enrollment is not yet final, new resident undergraduate enrollment is expected to decrease by six to seven percent, while new California community college transfer enrollments for this year are expected to reach more than 65,000.

Consistent with national trends, factors resulting in reduced applications and enrollments at campuses across the CSU system were tied to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the largest declines among prospective first-time freshmen. The pandemic compelled many students to choose options other than enrolling in college, such as taking on additional work and family responsibilities. Additionally, the shift from in-person to virtual instruction and advising at high schools and community colleges, and the precipitous decline in community college enrollment during the pandemic, likely contributed to lower first-time and transfer student demand.

While the CSU remains committed to expanding access in current and future years, it is expected that these disruptions will contribute to turbulent enrollment for the system and other broad-access institutions in the near future. The CSU remains optimistic and focused on greater access for eligible Californians through sustained investments in enrollment growth and affirms its commitment to access and success for both first-time and transfer students.

## **5 Conclusion**

The CSU's role in California's higher education framework has never been more important than it is today. In the current global economy, more students need a degree or credential beyond high school as the necessary pathway to a career. This shift coincides with the increase in the size and diversity of the state's college-going population. At the same time, California is facing a looming shortage of skilled, educated workers to drive its economy, spur innovation and lead its largest industries.

As demonstrated in this report, the CSU is making positive strides toward increasing graduation rates for freshmen and transfer students. Ongoing Graduation Initiative 2025 efforts promise to continue this momentum, to the benefit of students, their families and the state of California.

To maintain and build on this progress, sustained, predictable and sufficient state funding is necessary for the CSU's student success efforts. However, increasing graduation rates is only part of the equation. Meeting California's future workforce needs also requires investment to expand access to the CSU, providing the life-changing benefits of a college degree to more Californians.

With more than 100,000 Californians earning bachelor's degrees at the CSU every year – and with this figure poised to continue growing – there is no other investment that has the same potential to positively impact the future of the state.

**Measure 1****Resident CCC Transfer Enrollment**

Fall Term	Headcount	Percent of Total Undergraduates
2017	149,130	36.5%
2018	146,825	36.1%
2019	151,366	36.9%
2020	161,012	38.9%
2021	160,999	39.8%
2022	162,609	39.8%
2023	164,235	39.8%
2024	165,877	39.8%

*projection***Measure 2****New Resident CCC Transfer Enrollment**

College Year	Headcount	Percent of Total New Undergraduates
2016-2017	59,904	48.4%
2017-2018	59,059	46.8%
2018-2019	59,619	46.4%
2019-2020	65,320	49.4%
2020-2021	71,370	53.2%
2021-2022	65,081	52.0%
2022-2023	68,856	52.0%
2023-2024	69,545	52.0%

*projection***Measure 3****Low-Income Student Enrollment**

Fall Term	Headcount	Percent of Total Undergraduates
2016	205,757	48.5%
2017	217,658	50.1%
2018	213,578	49.3%
2019	212,651	48.9%
2020*	208,947	47.7%
2021	211,036	47.7%
2022	213,147	47.7%
2023	215,278	47.7%

*projection*

\* 2020 is the last Fall Term for which Pell data are available.

**Measure 4****New Low-Income Student Enrollment**

College Year	New Pell-Recipient Headcount	Percent of Total New Undergraduates
2016-2017	66,463	50.1%
2017-2018	69,987	51.7%
2018-2019	70,080	51.0%
2019-2020	72,328	51.4%
2020-2021	71,547	50.1%
2021-2022	72,262	50.1%
2022-2023	72,985	50.1%
2023-2024	73,715	50.1%

*projection*

**Measures 5 & 6**  
**Graduation Rates**  
**First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen**

Cohort	4-Year			6-Year		
	All	No Pell	Received Pell	All	No Pell	Received Pell
Fall 2011	19.3%	26.0%	12.0%	59.4%	64.8%	53.6%
Fall 2012	20.7%	27.5%	13.7%	61.2%	66.0%	56.2%
Fall 2013	22.7%	30.0%	15.3%	62.1%	67.2%	57.1%
Fall 2014	25.5%	32.7%	18.4%	62.4%	67.0%	57.8%
Fall 2015	27.7%	35.5%	19.8%	63.2%	68.3%	58.1%
Fall 2016	31.0%	38.1%	23.2%	66.3%	68.7%	61.5%
Fall 2017	33.3%	40.7%	25.8%	67.6%	69.0%	64.3%
Fall 2018	33.7%	40.7%	29.3%	68.8%	69.6%	67.9%
Fall 2019	35.8%	40.7%	32.8%			
Fall 2020	37.9%	40.7%	36.3%			

projection

**Measures 7, 8, & 9**  
**Graduation Rates**  
**California Community College Transfers**

Cohort	2-Year			3-Year			4-Year		
	All	No Pell	Received Pell	All	No Pell	Received Pell	All	No Pell	Received Pell
Fall 2011	26.7%	28.7%	24.8%	61.4%	63.3%	59.5%	73.0%	74.3%	71.7%
Fall 2012	28.4%	29.6%	27.3%	62.5%	63.4%	61.8%	74.0%	74.6%	73.4%
Fall 2013	30.6%	31.5%	29.8%	64.5%	65.3%	63.8%	75.3%	75.8%	74.9%
Fall 2014	32.6%	34.2%	31.4%	67.1%	68.3%	66.1%	77.1%	77.9%	76.5%
Fall 2015	35.1%	36.8%	33.8%	68.5%	69.8%	67.5%	77.6%	79.0%	76.5%
Fall 2016	38.0%	40.0%	36.4%	70.1%	71.6%	68.8%	78.9%	80.1%	77.9%
Fall 2017	40.7%	41.5%	40.0%	71.6%	72.5%	70.9%	79.6%	80.4%	79.0%
Fall 2018	43.6%	43.5%	43.6%	72.9%	73.0%	72.8%	81.3%	81.6%	80.5%
Fall 2019	44.3%	45.1%	43.7%	73.0%	73.3%	72.4%	82.6%	82.7%	82.0%
Fall 2020	44.4%	45.1%	44.0%	74.0%	74.2%	73.6%	83.8%	83.9%	83.5%
Fall 2021	44.6%	45.1%	44.3%	74.0%	74.2%	73.7%			
Fall 2022	44.8%	45.1%	44.7%						

projection

**Measure 10**  
**Annual Degree Completions**

College Year	Freshmen Entrants	CCC Transfer Students	Graduate Students	Total*	Low-Income Students
2016-2017	41,970	50,597	20,503	119,365	57,935
2017-2018	45,403	53,609	20,489	125,920	61,590
2018-2019	46,760	54,304	20,081	127,400	63,020
2019-2020	47,506	54,969	19,475	128,925	64,772
2020-2021	47,745	57,695	20,051	132,617	65,935
2021-2022	48,387	58,994	20,394	134,901	67,116
2022-2023	49,037	60,322	20,743	137,228	68,318
2023-2024	49,696	61,680	21,098	139,600	69,542

projection

\* Total includes all degree recipients, including those not reflected in the categories above (e.g. Non-California Community College transfers, etc.).

**Measure 11**  
**Freshmen Entrants with 30 or more Total Units at the start of Year 2**

Fall Enrollment	% of Students with 30 Units or More
2016	53.4%
2017	55.4%
2018	60.5%
2019	67.3%
2020	69.6%
2021	71.1%
2022	72.6%
2023	74.1%

projection

**Measure 12****CCC Transfers "on-track" to degree at the start of Year 2**

To address Measure 12: The number of units taken by CCC transfers in their first year at the CSU is an unreliable proxy measure for that student being "on track" to graduate in 2 years. Most CCC transfer students have taken well over 60 transferrable units when they transfer to the CSU, and the CSU will accept up to 70 units. The determination of which of those 60-plus units will apply toward their bachelor's degree cannot be determined until a student applies for graduation, at which time a different set of transfer credits may be applied to the degree than was intended when the student first enrolled.

**Measure 13****Revenue per Completion - All Students**

College Year	Completions	Total Funds Received	Dollars per Completion
2020-21	143,980	\$5,921,882,000	\$41,130
2021-22 est.	146,746	\$6,345,754,000	\$43,243
2022-23 est.	149,566	\$6,695,250,000	\$44,765
2023-24 est.	152,441	\$6,695,250,000	\$43,920

projection

**Measure 14****Revenue per Degree - Undergraduates Only**

College Year	Undergraduate Degrees	Estimated Funds Received from Undergraduates	Dollars per Undergraduate Degree
2020-21	112,566	\$5,312,095,491	\$47,191
2021-22 est.	114,817	\$5,692,320,653	\$49,577
2022-23 est.	117,114	\$6,005,828,440	\$51,282
2023-24 est.	119,456	\$6,005,828,440	\$50,276

projection

**Measure 15****Total Units Earned, per Bachelor's Degree**

College Year	All Undergraduate Students		CCC Transfer Students		Freshmen Entrants	
	CSU Units	Total Units	CSU Units	Total Units	CSU Units	Total Units
2020-2021	89.1	137	62.9	137.3	123.9	135.6
2021-2022	88.1	136	61.9	136.3	122.9	134.6
2022-2023	88.1	136	61.9	136.3	122.9	134.6
2023-2024	88.1	136	61.9	136.3	122.9	134.6

projection

**Measure 16a**  
**STEM Degrees (excluding Health Professions)**

College Year	Undergraduate Students	Graduate Students	Total	Low-Income Students
2016-2017	18,426	5,487	23,913	10,032
2017-2018	20,159	4,815	24,974	10,986
2018-2019	21,134	4,534	25,668	11,466
2019-2020	21,867	4,355	26,222	12,011
2020-2021	22,188	4,357	26,545	11,947
2021-2022	22,965	4,379	27,344	12,355
2022-2023	23,769	4,401	28,170	12,788
2023-2024	24,601	4,423	29,024	13,235

projection

**Measure 16b**  
**STEM Degrees (Health Professions\* only)**

College Year	Undergraduate Students	Graduate Students	Total	Low-Income Students
2016-2017	7,544	2,053	9,597	4,356
2017-2018	8,085	2,162	10,247	4,537
2018-2019	8,081	2,245	10,326	4,600
2019-2020	7,773	2,188	9,961	4,354
2020-2021	8,133	2,240	10,373	4,615
2021-2022	8,423	2,269	10,692	4,776
2022-2023	8,723	2,299	11,022	4,946
2023-2024	9,034	2,329	11,363	5,122

projection

\* Health professions do not include all psychology or social work degrees.