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July 17, 2024

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RE: State Performance Measures for 2023-24 Academic Year

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

The CSU's efforts to strengthen student success and improve graduation rates continue to gain momentum. Graduation rates demonstrate a continued upward trajectory for first-time, full-time freshmen and students transferring from California Community Colleges. The overall number of degrees conferred each academic year is also growing. In 2022-23, the CSU conferred 126,860 degrees—105,841 of which were bachelor's degrees—and the number of graduates in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) rose to nearly 27,000. To continue to build on this momentum—and

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CSU Report: State Performance Measures for 2023-24 Academic Year

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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 annually report on performance measures for the preceding academic year and goals for the three academic years 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 Nathan Dietrich, assistant vice chancellor, Advocacy and State Relations, at (916) 445-5983.

Sincerely,



Steven Relyea (Jul 18, 2024 11:32 PDT)

Steve Relyea
Executive Vice Chancellor
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

Graduation Initiative 2025: Finishing Strong

1 Introduction

As the nation's largest four-year public university system, the California State University (CSU) serves more than 450,000 students from all socio-economic backgrounds. More than half of CSU students are people of color and nearly one-third are the first in their family to attend college.

Nearly a decade ago, the system embarked on a bold initiative to ensure that all students, regardless of racial, ethnic or financial background, have an equal opportunity to earn a transformative CSU degree and contribute to California's future and beyond. As Graduation Initiative 2025 nears its landmark milestone, the system continues to identify and develop resources and effective practices focused on supporting student success. For example, the Chancellor's Office recently launched the CSU Finish Strong Community of Practice and introduced a CSU-developed, real-time data progression tool to help track and support student progression and time to degree conferral. The tool, Graduate365, leverages both cohort and real-time student data. To help lay the foundation for the next iteration of a graduation initiative, the CSU is also participating in a year of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders to help define student success moving forward.

The following report outlines the CSU's current progress in supporting student success.

2 Graduation Rates

CSU graduation rates continue to demonstrate a continued upward trajectory for first-time, full-time freshmen and students transferring from California Community Colleges, as well as growth in the overall number of degrees conferred each academic year.

In this section, projections also 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% four-year freshmen graduation rate
- A 70% six-year-or-less freshmen graduation rate
- A 45% two-year transfer graduation rate
- An 85% four-year-or-less transfer graduation rate

In addition to specific student populations, the CSU is strongly committed to reducing, and ultimately, eliminating, equity gaps that exist by race/ethnicity and for students from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

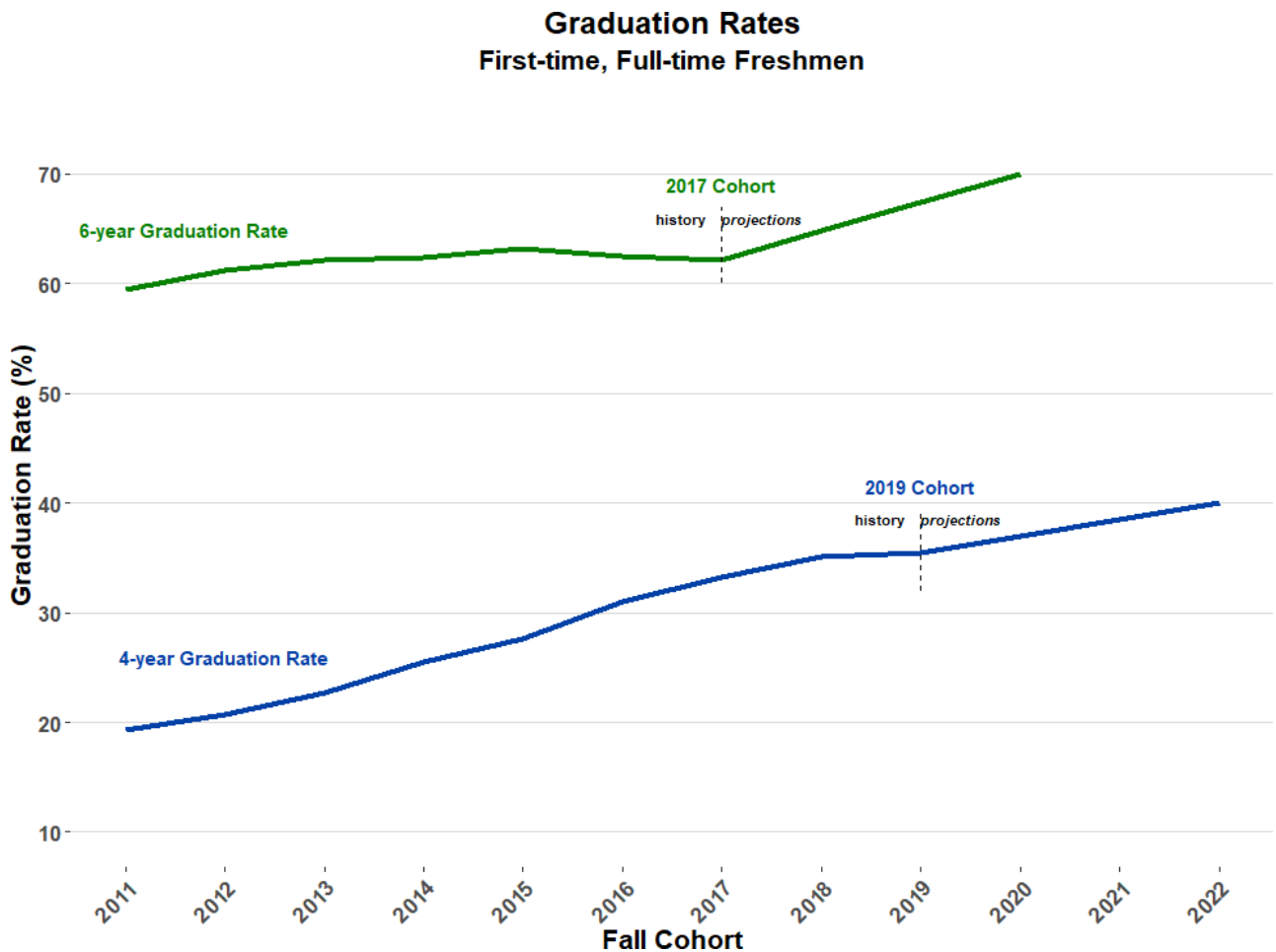
Since the launch of Graduation Initiative 2025, the CSU has nearly doubled its four-year graduation rate. When combined with enrollment over the last nine years, these outcomes have contributed to an additional 150,000 bachelor's degrees earned. While actual increases may not be linear from year to year, 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 as outlined in the Governor's Budget Compact Report.

2.1 First-time, Full-time Freshmen

As demonstrated in the figure below (to the left of the dotted lines), four-year graduation rates for first-time, full-time freshmen continue to increase. For the fall 2019 cohort, 35.5% of students graduated in four years, up from 33.3% for the fall 2017 cohort, and 31% for the fall 2016 cohort.

Six-year graduation rates had a slight dip for the fall 2017 cohort: 62.2% graduated within six years, down from 62.4% for the fall 2016 cohort. Despite the minor decline for the most recent cohort, six-year graduation rates are still up relative to the fall 2012 cohort, where 61.2% of students graduated within a six-year timeframe.

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 goals stated above for first-time, full-time freshmen; however, it is anticipated that annual progress will not always occur in a linear fashion.

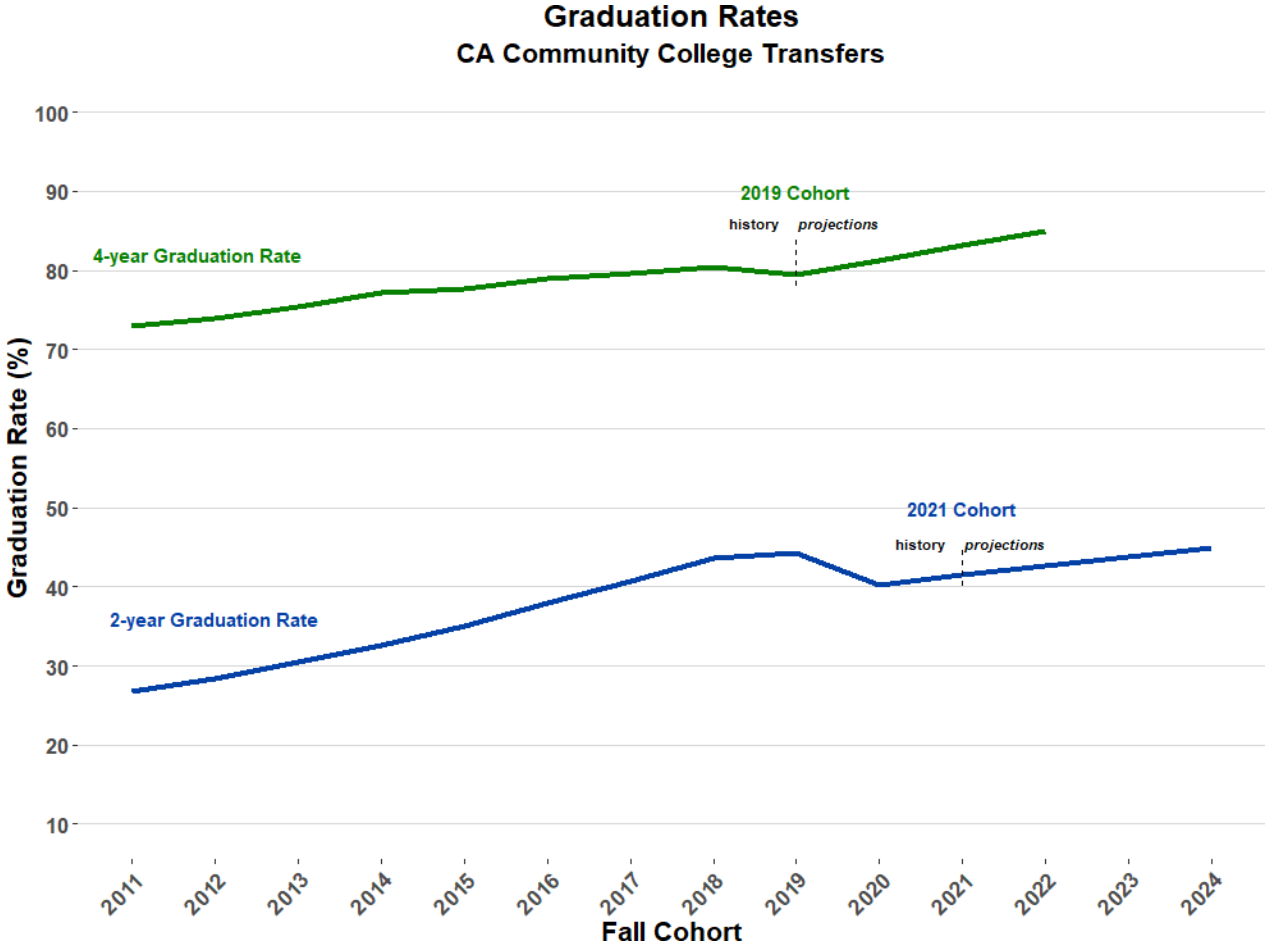


2.2 California Community College Transfers

After several years of increases in two-year graduation rates for California Community College transfer students, the graduation rates for the fall 2020 cohort declined relative to previous cohorts. Two-year graduation rates have begun to recover for the fall 2021 cohort: 41.5% of transfer students graduated in two years, up from 40.3% for the fall 2020 cohort.

As demonstrated in the figure below (to the left of the dotted lines), four-year graduation rates for students transferring from a California Community College have increased steadily for most cohorts entering after 2012. For the fall 2019 cohort, 79.4% of transfer students graduated within four years, a slight decrease from the 80.4% of transfer students who graduated within four years from the fall 2018 cohort. Since 2012, the four-year graduation rates increased by five percentage points for both Pell grant and non-Pell grant 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 goals stated above for students transferring from a California Community College.

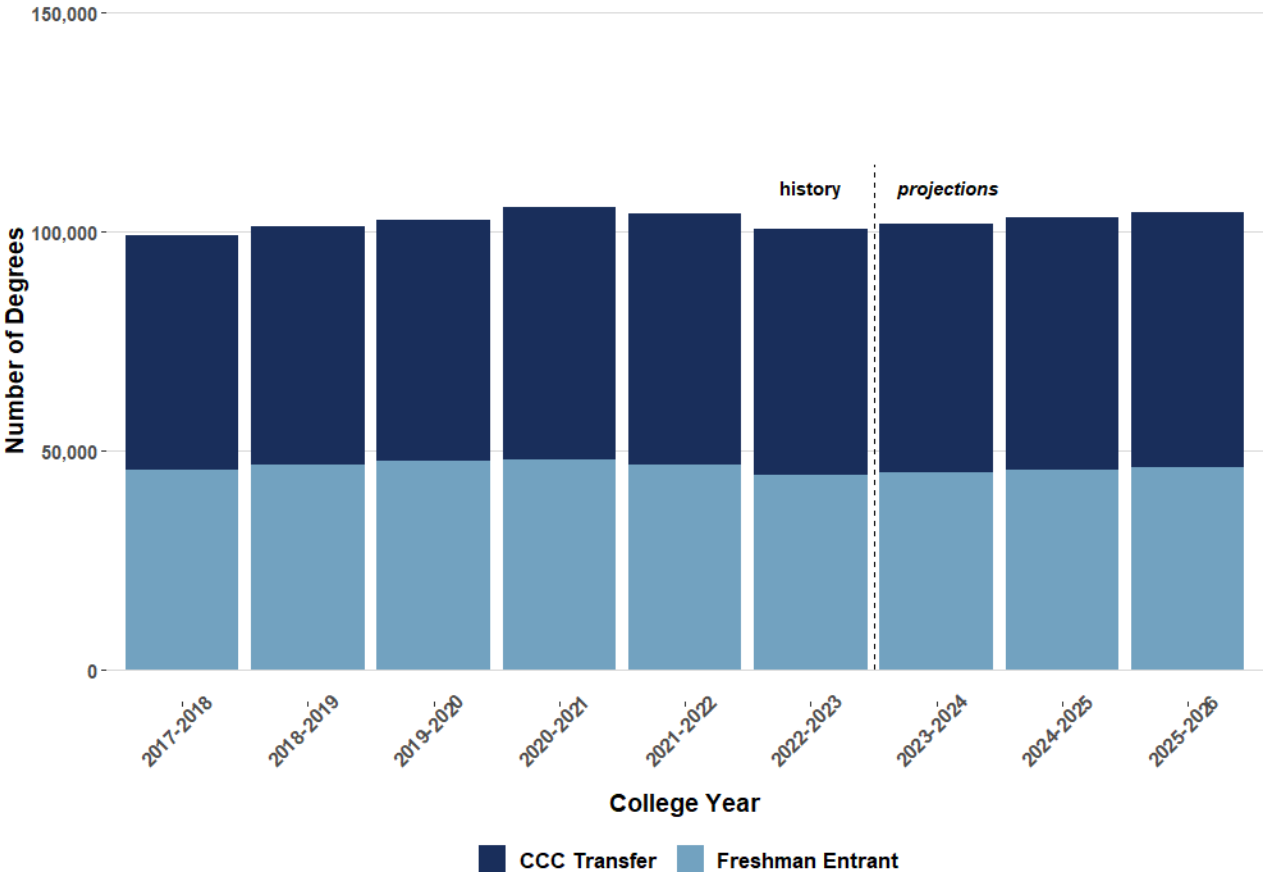


2.3 Annual Degree Completions

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 has decreased slightly relative to the previous year. In 2022-23, 126,860 total degrees were earned. This includes 105,841 bachelor's degrees.

A number of systemwide priorities are focused on student retention and persistence, including re-engaging and re-enrolling students, reducing administrative barriers to graduation and providing equitable access to a digital degree planner. Through these and other interventions and services, it is anticipated that the number of degree completions will continue to increase.

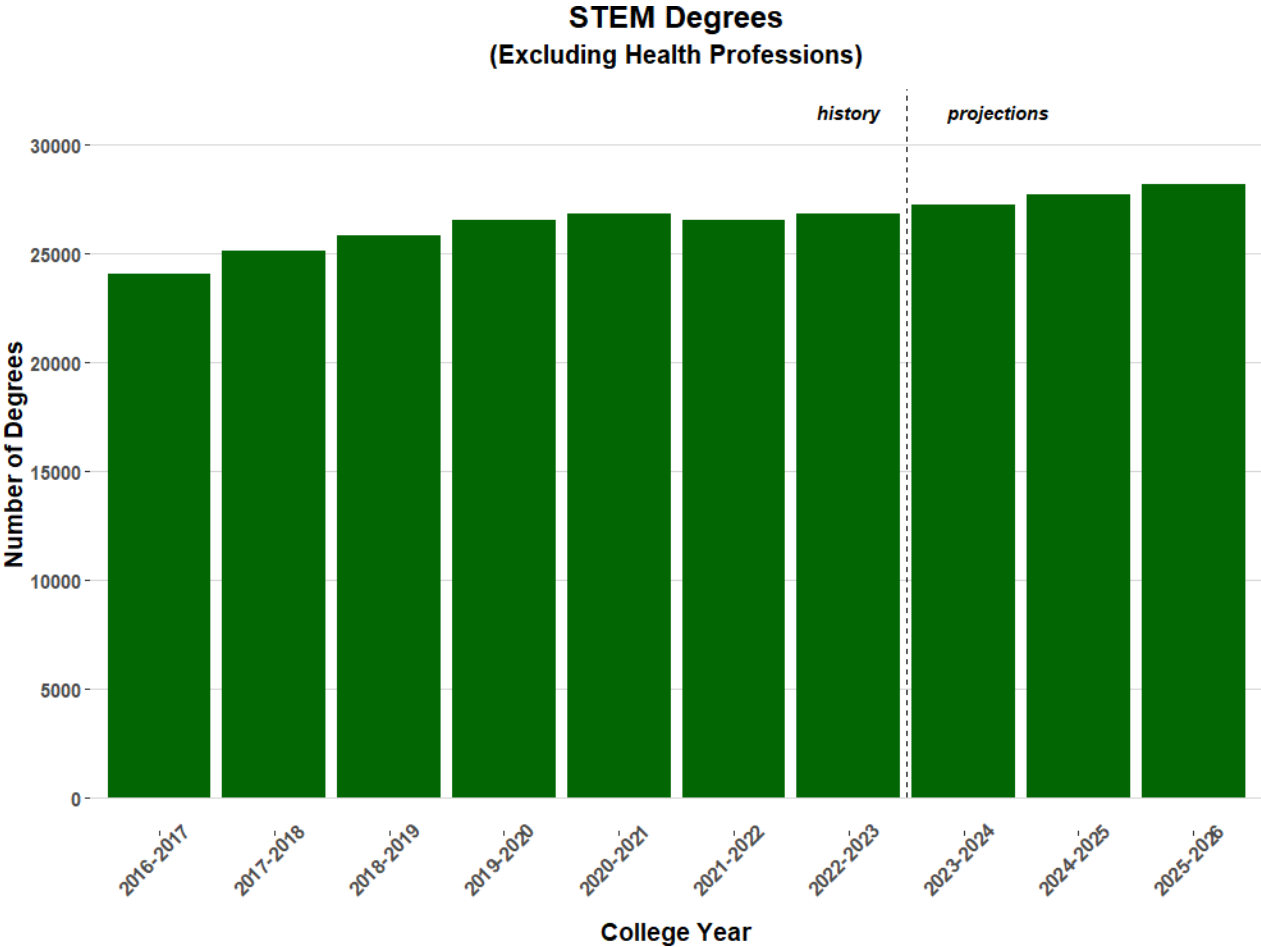
Bachelor's Degree Completions



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). The number of STEM degrees awarded has grown slightly to 26,789 in 2022-23, up from 26,499 in 2021-22. Between 2016-17 and 2022-23, the number of undergraduate STEM degrees earned annually at the CSU increased by more than 3,300, 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 who are 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.



3 Supporting Student Success

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 additional efforts focused on student re-engagement and re-enrollment as well as increasing access to data tools and training, including the Finish Strong Community of Practice and Graduate365, the system continues to innovate and build upon its student success efforts.

4 Increasing Access

The 2022-23 new undergraduate resident headcount enrollments remained flat relative to 2021-22 levels. In 2022-23, there were 125,125 new undergraduate resident students at the CSU. New undergraduate resident headcount is still below 2020-21 levels. The decline from 134,090 new undergraduate students in 2020-21 was primarily driven by a steep decline in new transfer student enrollment. Compared to the previous year, the 2022-23 year-over-year decline in the number of transfer students has begun to slow, while the number of first-time freshmen has grown to 61,708, the highest it has been since 2019-20.

It is expected that enrollment will continue to fluctuate for the CSU and other institutions in the near future due to multiple economic and social factors. Despite these challenges, the CSU remains committed to providing greater access for eligible Californians through sustained efforts in strategic enrollment management. The Chancellor's Office has deployed a variety of strategies, in coordination with campuses, to target enrollment growth, and recently embarked on increasing outreach communications to amplify public awareness of the value of a CSU degree.

Most recently, the CSU announced the launch of its new dual admission program for recent high school graduates entering a California Community College. The program offers a streamlined path to enroll at the CSU campus of the student's choice within three years, as well as providing additional student services even before the student enrolls at the CSU. A number of campuses are also announcing direct admission programs for qualifying high school students to help foster a college-going mindset.

5 Conclusion

As demonstrated in this report, the CSU continues to make progress toward increasing graduation rates for freshmen and transfer students and in realizing its Graduation Initiative 2025 goals despite a challenging landscape in higher education enrollment and retention. To maintain a positive trajectory, sustained, predictable and sufficient state funding is essential. 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.

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 diversity of the state's college-going population. Moreover, the CSU offers the breadth and depth of expertise to offer bachelor's degrees and applied graduate degrees that can help influence a more thriving and prosperous future for California.

Appendices

Measure 1: Resident CCC Transfer Enrollment

Fall Term	Headcount	% of Total/Undergraduates
2020	161,012	38.9%
2021	160,999	39.8%
2022	150,693	38.9%
2023	145,601	37.8%
Projections		
2024	147,057	37.8%
2025	149,263	37.8%
2026	152,248	37.8%

Measure 2: New Resident CCC Transfer Enrollment

College Year	Headcount	Percent of Total Undergraduates
2018-2019	59,619	46.4%
2019-2020	65,320	49.4%
2020-2021	71,370	53.2%
2021-2022	65,064	52.0%
2022-2023	59,658	47.7%
Projections		
2023-2024	59,460	46.2%
2024-2025	60,352	46.2%
2025-2026	61,559	46.2%

Measure 3. Low-Income Student Enrollment

Fall Term	Headcount	% of Total Undergraduates
2019	212,651	48.9%
2020	208,947	47.7%
2021	202,405	47.2%
2022	190,540	46.4%
Projections		
2023	192,445	46.4%
2024	194,370	46.4%
2025	196,314	46.4%

* 2022 is the last Fall Term for which Pell data are available.

Measure 4. New Low-Income Student Enrollment

College Year	Headcount	pct
2017-2018	69,987	51.7%
2018-2019	70,080	51%
2019-2020	72,328	51.4%
2020-2021	71,547	50.1%
2021-2022	66,382	49.5%
2022-2023	65,659	49.1%
Projections		
2023-2024	66,316	49.1%
2024-2025	66,979	49.1%
2025-2026	67,649	49.1%

Measure 5: 4-year Graduation Rates (First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen)

Cohort	All	No Pell	Received Pell
2013	22.7%	30.0%	15.3%
2014	25.5%	32.7%	18.4%
2015	27.7%	35.5%	19.8%
2016	31.0%	38.1%	23.2%
2017	33.3%	40.7%	25.8%
2018	35.1%	41.5%	28.6%
2019	35.5%	42.1%	29.0%
Projections			
2020	37.0%	42.1%	32.7%
2021	38.5%	42.1%	36.3%
2022	40.0%	42.1%	40.0%

Measure 6: 6-year Graduation Rates (First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen)

Cohort	All	No Pell	Received Pell
2013	62.1%	67.2%	57.1%
2014	62.4%	67.0%	57.8%
2015	63.2%	68.3%	58.1%
2016	62.4%	67.6%	56.8%
2017	62.2%	68.3%	56.0%
Projections			
2018	64.8%	68.9%	60.7%
2019	67.4%	69.4%	65.3%
2020	70.0%	70.0%	70.0%

Measure 7: 2-year Graduation Rates (California Community College Transfers)

Cohort	All	No Pell	Received Pell
2013	30.6%	31.5%	29.8%
2014	32.6%	34.2%	31.4%
2015	35.1%	36.8%	33.8%
2016	38.0%	40.0%	36.4%
2017	40.7%	41.5%	40.0%
2018	43.6%	43.5%	43.6%
2019	44.3%	45.1%	43.7%
2020	40.3%	40.2%	40.3%
2021	41.5%	42.3%	40.7%
Projections			
2022	42.6%	43.2%	42.2%
2023	43.8%	44.2%	43.6%
2024	45.0%	45.1%	45.0%

Measure 8: 3-year Graduation Rates (California Community College Transfers)

Cohort	All	No Pell	Received Pell
2013	64.5%	65.3%	63.8%
2014	67.1%	68.3%	66.1%
2015	68.5%	69.8%	67.5%
2016	70.1%	71.6%	68.8%
2017	71.6%	72.5%	70.9%
2018	72.9%	73.0%	72.8%
2019	72.1%	73.0%	71.4%
2020	67.6%	68.1%	67.3%
Projections			
2021	70.1%	70.4%	69.8%
2022	72.5%	72.7%	72.4%
2023	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%

Measure 9: 4-year Graduation Rates (California Community College Transfers)

Cohort	All	No Pell	Received Pell
2013	75.3%	75.8%	74.9%
2014	77.1%	77.9%	76.5%
2015	77.6%	79.0%	76.5%
2016	78.9%	80.1%	77.9%
2017	79.6%	80.4%	79.0%
2018	80.4%	80.7%	80.1%
2019	79.4%	80.5%	78.6%
Projections			
2020	81.3%	82.0%	80.7%
2021	83.1%	83.5%	82.9%
2022	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%

Measure 10: Annual Degree Completions

College Year	Freshmen Entrants	CCC Transfer Students	Graduate Students	Total*	Low-Income Students
2018-2019	46,760	54,312	20,073	127,400	63,020
2019-2020	47,506	54,975	19,469	128,925	64,772
2020-2021	47,745	57,714	20,032	132,617	65,935
2021-2022	46,658	57,235	19,846	129,782	63,595
2022-2023	44,271	56,286	21,007	126,860	61,579
Projections					
2023-2024	44,866	56,919	21,366	128,448	62,682
2024-2025	45,469	57,560	21,732	130,057	63,805
2025-2026	46,080	58,208	22,104	131,688	64,949

* Total includes all degree recipients, including those not reflected in the categories above (e.g., Non-CCC transfer, etc.).

Measure 1: Freshman Entrants with 30 or More Total Units at the Start of Year 2

Fall Enrollment	% of Students with 30 Units or More
2019	67.3%
2020	69.6%
2021	68.9%
2022	66.7%
Projections	
2024	67.7%
2025	68.7%
2026	69.7%

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 two 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

	Completions	Total Funds Received	Dollars per Completion
2022-23	135,270	\$6,008,825,200	\$44,421
Projections			
2023-24 est.	137,257	\$6,136,226,200	\$44,706
2024-25 est.	139,273	\$6,356,321,200	\$45,639
2025-26 est.	141,320	\$6,370,290,200	\$45,077

Measure 14: Revenue Per Degree -- Undergraduates Only

	Undergraduate Degrees	Estimated Funds Received	Dollars per Degree
2022-23	105,841	\$5,407,215,612	\$51,088
Projections			
2023-24 est.	107,429	\$5,521,861,097	\$51,400
2024-25 est.	109,040	\$5,719,919,965	\$52,457
2025-26 est.	110,676	\$5,732,490,375	\$51,795

Measure 15: Total Units Earned Per Bachelor's Degree

College Year	All Undergraduate		CCC Transfer		Freshmen Entrants	
	CSU Units	Total Units	CSU Units	Total Units	CSU Units	Total Units
2022-2023	87.2	135.8	62.2	136.3	121.2	134.5
Projections						
2023-2024	86.2	134.8	61.2	135.3	120.2	133.5
2024-2025	86.2	134.8	61.2	135.3	120.2	133.5
2025-2026	86.2	134.8	61.2	135.3	120.2	133.5

Measure 16a: STEM Degrees (excluding Health Professions)

College Year	Undergraduate Students	Graduate Students	Total	Low-Income Students
2016-2017	18,564	5,487	24,051	10,080
2017-2018	20,299	4,815	25,114	11,043
2018-2019	21,265	4,534	25,799	11,509
2019-2020	22,138	4,355	26,493	12,092
2020-2021	22,473	4,357	26,830	12,043
2021-2022	22,427	4,072	26,499	11,833
2022-2023	21,884	4,905	26,789	11,754
Projections				
2023-2024	22,267	4,966	27,233	11,774
2024-2025	22,657	5,028	27,685	11,980
2025-2026	23,053	5,091	28,144	12,189

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	8,144	2,186	10,330	4,581
2018-2019	8,167	2,267	10,434	4,660
2019-2020	7,871	2,205	10,076	4,420
2020-2021	8,233	2,276	10,509	4,692
2021-2022	8,173	2,301	10,474	4,504
2022-2023	7,723	2,343	10,066	4,194
Projections				
2023-2024	7,860	2,358	10,219	4,248
2024-2025	8,000	2,374	10,374	4,323
2025-2026	8,143	2,389	10,532	4,400

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