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November 22, 2024

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RE: California State University Student Success Fees

The following report summarizes student success fees adopted or rescinded in the prior academic year, and the uses of proposed and currently implemented student success fees by the California State University (CSU).

This report fulfills the requirements of Section 89712 of the Education Code, which identifies the information to be contained in the report submission and is prepared by December 1 of each year for the Legislature and Department of Finance.

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

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CSU Report: Student Success Fees

November 22, 2024

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Sincerely,



Steven Relyea (Nov 25, 2024 12:35 PST)

Steve Relyea
Executive Vice Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

SR:dr

Full report posted to <https://www.calstate.edu/legislativereports/>

- c: Members, California State Legislature
Members, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Natalie Gonzalez, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst Office
Nathan Evans, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs
Dilcie Perez, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs
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Ryan Storm, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget Planning and Advocacy
Jeni Kitchell, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Finance and Budget Administration/Controller

**Report to the Legislature
and Department of Finance
December 1, 2024**

California State University Student Success Fees

as reported for the 2023-24 Academic Year

Background

As required by Section 89712 of the Education Code, the California State University (CSU) is required to report a summary of the student success fees adopted or rescinded in the prior academic year and the uses of proposed and currently implemented fees. This statute is consistent with adopted CSU policy that requires annual reporting to the public.

A “student success fee” is a type of category II campus-based mandatory fee that is required to be paid by a student before that student may enroll or attend a specific CSU campus. When the governor signed Senate Bill 860 in June 2014, it added Education Code Section 89712 addressing category II campus-based mandatory student success fees. The role, process, and enactment of student success fees were further codified when the governor signed Assembly Bill 1000 in 2015, incorporating provisions adopted by the CSU Board of Trustees for CSU student fee policy related to student success fees.

Additional information regarding the CSU’s student success fees can be found at calstate.edu/apply/paying-for-college/csu-costs/student-success-fees. The website provides additional background, fee amounts and revenue by campus, and the process to establish, revise, or repeal the fees.

Changes to Student Success Fees in 2023-24

For academic year 2023-24, there were only minor increases to student success fee rates to reflect inflationary factors. The average annual fee rate increased by \$10 (2.2%) to \$456.

Twelve of the twenty-three campuses charged a student success fee in 2023-24 ranging from \$206 to \$980. There were no new fees proposed or adopted, nor were any fees rescinded during the academic year.

Use of Student Success Fees

A student success fee is a type of campus-based, campus-driven, campus-managed fee designed to enhance the quality of the campus environment and academic programs to improve the experience of students on a specific campus. No student success fee is identical to any other as each reflects the purposes and priorities of the individual campus implementing the fee.

The table below shows how student success fee revenues were expended in 2023-24:

Campus Identified SSF Activity Area	Actual Expenditures	Percentage
Increased Courses	41,815,000	27.8%
Student Support Activities	33,632,000	22.3%
Student Success and Retention	22,411,000	14.9%
Technology Improvements	19,150,000	12.7%
Student Academic Programs	13,814,000	9.2%
Student Development	7,831,000	5.2%
Student Academic Support	5,672,000	3.8%
Student Engagement	3,355,000	2.2%
Fee Consolidation and Elimination	1,775,000	1.2%
Facility Renovations	1,146,000	0.8%
TOTAL	150,601,000	100.0%

Implementation and use of these fees began in 2008 to augment state funding which was reduced during the Great Recession, beginning at one campus and currently utilized at twelve of the twenty-three CSU campuses. The campus community determines the need for a student success fee and how the fee revenue is to be used to improve the quality of academic programs or the campus experience for students.

Student success fees fund a variety of priorities determined by each campus; however, there are common themes between the campuses. Most campuses utilize these funds for increasing high demand course offerings to facilitate graduation, expanding library hours to evenings and weekends, modernizing classroom information technology, provide funding for intercollegiate athletic programs including scholarship funding and facility improvements, as well as expanded career guidance programs.

Other activities funded by these revenues include student leadership development programs, student projects/competitions/performances, joint student and faculty research opportunities, participation in professional conferences, and diversity initiatives.