Graduation Initiative 2025

In an effort to better prepare and assist students, the CSU has established a plan to remove obstacles to receiving a baccalaureate degree.

The California State University launched its Graduation Initiative 2025 in January 2015 with a clear goal: to increase graduation rates for our 475,000 students across all 23 campuses.

To meet the workforce demands of California’s innovation economy in the years and decades to come, Graduation Initiative 2025 will add 100,000 more baccalaureate degree-educated citizens to California over the next 10 years. This would bring the total number of expected CSU graduates between 2015 and 2025 alone to more than one million.

Key Objectives

As of September 20, 2016, Graduation Initiative 2025 established a series of ambitious objectives, including:

- Increasing the six-year graduation rate for first-time freshmen to 70 percent
- Increasing the four-year graduation rate for first-time freshmen to 40 percent
- Increasing the four-year graduation rate for transfer students to 85 percent
- Increasing the two-year graduation rate for transfer students to 45 percent
- Eliminating the achievement gap
The Graduation Initiative 2025 follows the success of the first Graduation Initiative, launched in 2009, which surpassed its primary goal of increasing the graduation rate for first-time incoming CSU freshmen from 46 percent to 54 percent with an achieved rate of 57 percent.

**The CSU: The Heart of Student Success**

Every student deserves the opportunity to succeed. At the California State University, we know that education, unlike almost anything else, has the potential to lift individuals, families and entire communities.

CSU students are the embodiment of talent, excellence and perseverance. While most students naturally need to meet the rigors of an academic career to succeed, many CSU students must also overcome challenges outside the classroom that can affect their success. For example, over half of baccalaureate students rely on need-based Pell grants, and one in three students are the first in their families to attend college.
The strategic measures proposed in the Graduation Initiative 2025 are designed to support students through the entire pipeline—from applying to the CSU through to graduation. Some of the methods on the path to achieving these objectives include:

- Ensuring first-time freshmen are prepared for college. The CSU works closely with its K-12, community and business partners throughout California to prepare more students for the rigors of college—and on the path toward a lifetime of success.
- Ensuring transfer students entering the university are academically prepared. The Associate Degree for Transfer program, a collaboration with the California Community Colleges, helps streamline the transfer process for tens of thousands of students annually.
- Ensuring technology is part of every CSU student’s learning environment. Effective use of technology has been shown to improve retention in courses with the highest failure rates.
- Ensuring student outcomes are improved and clear pathways to degrees are established through the expansion of electronic academic advising tools.
- Ensuring student success is supported with the hiring of more tenure-track faculty and more support and counseling staff.

Graduation Initiative 2025 is the CSU’s commitment to remove the obstacles to student success, enabling our students to experience transformation for themselves and a lasting impact on California.

Related Links

- [Campus and System Plans and Goals](https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/why-the-csu-matters/graduation-initiative-2025/Pages/default.aspx)
- [Graduation Initiative 2025 Symposium](https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/why-the-csu-matters/graduation-initiative-2025/Pages/default.aspx)
- [Closing the Achievement Gap](https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/why-the-csu-matters/graduation-initiative-2025/Pages/default.aspx)