
THE NEED TO MAKE HIGHER EDUCATION SUSTAINABLE

In the midst of fiscal constraints, the Administration supports continued investment in higher education with the expectation that colleges and universities will work together and implement new and creative practices that consider the cost of instruction, better support student success and completion, and expand access to higher education for more California students.

CCC STUDENT SUCCESS

The CCCs provide basic skills, vocational, and undergraduate transfer education with 72 districts, 113 campuses, and 78 educational centers. Approximately 2.1 million students attend community colleges. In 2015-16, the community colleges awarded over 74,000 certificates and 130,000 degrees and transferred over 103,000 students to four-year institutions.

The CCC system is one of the most cost-effective higher education systems in the nation, with colleges and learning centers available to students across all populated regions of the state and online. With enrollment fees of \$46 per unit, a student can complete the 60 units necessary to obtain an associate degree or transfer to a four-year institution for less than \$3,000 in tuition. Further, 65 percent of all enrollment fees are waived, providing a tuition-free education to about 50 percent of students enrolled in the community colleges. While a qualifying student may choose to attend a UC or CSU directly out of high school, first attending a CCC and then transferring to a UC or CSU could reduce a student's cost to obtain a four-year degree by thousands of dollars. Many California residents already take advantage of this option, with approximately 74,000 community college students transferring to a UC or CSU campus in 2015-16.

Providing students access to higher education through CCCs requires more focus on timely completion and student success—not only to make room for incoming students but to improve outcomes for these students. The Budget continues to provide \$285 million for the Student Success and Support Program, \$155 million for Student Equity Plans, \$50 million for the Student Services for Basic Skills Students Program, and funding for numerous other student support programs. These resources expand current services provided to students to improve outcomes, close gaps in access and achievement between underrepresented student groups and their peers, and implement practices that increase students' transition to college-level courses. Additionally, community colleges are investing in tutoring services, coordinating with

local educational agencies to improve the success of students transitioning from high schools, and redesigning their remedial education courses and assessment and placement activities.

Despite these efforts, most CCC degree, certificate, and transfer programs expect students to determine their educational goals from myriad programs, courses and support services offered by their community college. Without the necessary advising and targeted student support services, most students struggle to complete their program in a timely manner. In recent years, state policies—such as stronger guarantees through California Promise programs, streamlined transfer pathways, and concurrent enrollment across systems, all supported through budget actions—help to address these challenges.

The Budget proposes additional investment in student success. Specifically, the Budget includes \$150 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund for grants to support community colleges' efforts to develop and implement "guided pathways" programs. A guided pathway program is an integrated, institution-wide approach focused on improving student success. Participating community colleges can use these grants for activities including the design of academic roadmaps and transfer pathways that explicitly detail the courses students must take to complete a credential or degree on time. Colleges can also use these grants to provide targeted advising and support services; redesign assessment, placement, and remedial education policies and courses; and redesign or refresh courses and programs to better align learning outcomes with the requirements for successful employment. Guided pathway programs have been implemented in higher education institutions in other states with positive results. The expectation is to improve completion rates, reduce time-to-degree, increase California students' employment opportunities, and reduce student debt.

The Chancellor's Office will play a critical role in supporting the colleges' efforts to improve student success, address equity disparities, and develop the guided pathways program. By establishing state expectations, providing technical assistance, and holding colleges accountable, the Chancellor's Office will help the colleges achieve these goals.

AMBITIOUS GOALS IN THE CSU GRADUATION INITIATIVE

The CSU provides undergraduate and graduate instruction generally through the master's degree. Its 23 campuses enroll approximately 400,000 students. In 2015-16,