

Strengthening Our Vision

California Community Colleges provides opportunities to all who seek them and is a powerful force for breaking down systemic inequities that block too many students from attaining the career and life they want.

We acted boldly in 2017 to create a vision clarifying the challenges and opportunities we face to serve our students. Through that process, and in subsequent work, we identified many ways to improve how we show up for students.



A majority of nurses and first-responders in the state are trained at California Community Colleges.

Whether students earn a certificate or degree or they transfer to a four-year university, we're relentlessly focused on knocking down barriers for students — providing access for all and tailored support to those who need it most.

We recognize the power of our work to help students improve economic mobility and ultimately pursue the career and life that they want. And, we've been stepping up our pace of improvement across the system — using data and inquiry — to deliver high-quality instruction and increased opportunities to the 2.1 million students we serve.

This work has never been more important. As California responds to a sustained national crisis, California Community Colleges has a vital role to play in preparing our first responders and equipping our students with the skills and credentials they need to weather increasing economic hardship and play a pivotal role in the recovery effort to come.

Equity at the core of our work

We're redoubling our commitment to equity and enabling thoughtful action and innovation to pivot quickly to deliver for our students. This mentality might have been galvanized by crisis, but it reflects the values that we share as an institution, and it is what our staff and our students — the most resilient in the nation — deserve. For the last three years, we've come together around bold goals to improve student outcomes.

Our efforts are guided by the core belief that colleges should simplify paths to educational goals and help students stay on those paths until completion.

Nearly one-third of University of California grads and nearly one-half of California State University grads started their education at community colleges.



Guiding goals

INCREASE DEGREE & CERTIFICATE ATTAINMENT

Through Guided Pathways, colleges provide students with program maps that help them get and stay on the path that's as straightforward as possible and furthers their career goals.

REDUCE EXCESS UNIT ACCUMULATION BY STUDENTS

By abandoning a placement system that failed to accurately measure students' potential, particularly students of color, colleges more than doubled the number of transfer-level courses and significantly reduced or eliminated remedial courses that don't count toward graduation.

INCREASE TRANSFERS TO FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

Our student transfer rate continues to increase year over year. We've nearly doubled the number of students receiving associate degrees for transfer since 2015. Every year, our colleges introduce new degrees with a guarantee for transfer to the California State University system.

CLOSE EQUITY GAPS

We're asking colleges to identify students most in need so that they can tailor their support. We provided more flexibility with funding for programs and services that advance equity.

SECURE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT

We're stepping up and playing a key role in connecting displaced workers who will be on the front lines of economic recovery efforts to career-training opportunities. This means improving on-ramps to learning and off-ramps to work for learners of all ages.

CLOSE REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

Nearly half of our students have tuition covered by the California College Promise grant. We're working with the legislature to increase financial aid and its flexibility so that students can cover other important college expenses like rent, food, and books.

By being fearless in our commitment to make California Community Colleges truly student-ready, we can meet the needs of this moment and advance our mission of opening the door of economic prosperity to all Californians.