

GRADUATION INITIATIVE 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Graduation Initiative 2025?

A. Graduation Initiative 2025 aims to dramatically increase completion rates for all students while closing achievement gaps. If the CSU achieves the ambitious goals outlined in Graduation Initiative 2025, it will lead public comprehensive universities in degree completion in all categories. Graduation Initiative 2025 will dramatically benefit students and their families, and have a significant impact on the future of California's economy and workforce.

Q. Why did the CSU launch this initiative?

A. The CSU has been actively working to improve completion rates since 2009, and the university surpassed the goals established for 2015. Completion rates are at all-time highs with first-time freshmen, graduating on average in 4.7 years. With the CSU's success to date, Chancellor Timothy P. White announced in January 2016 that the university would craft new ambitious system-level and campus-specific graduation goals for first-time freshmen, transfer students, low income and underserved students to be unveiled in early fall 2016.



Q. How is Graduation Initiative 2025 different from previous efforts?

A. Graduation Initiative 2025 unites all 23 campuses in a collective effort to make significant improvements in student success. Meeting these goals would set a new standard in higher education, making the CSU the national flagship for public comprehensive universities with regards to completion rates and equity. Graduation Initiative 2025 establishes new ambitious targets including four-year and six-year completion goals for first-time freshmen, two-year and four-year completion goals for transfer students, and elimination of the achievement gap for all underserved and Pell-eligible students.

Q. How were the completion targets established?

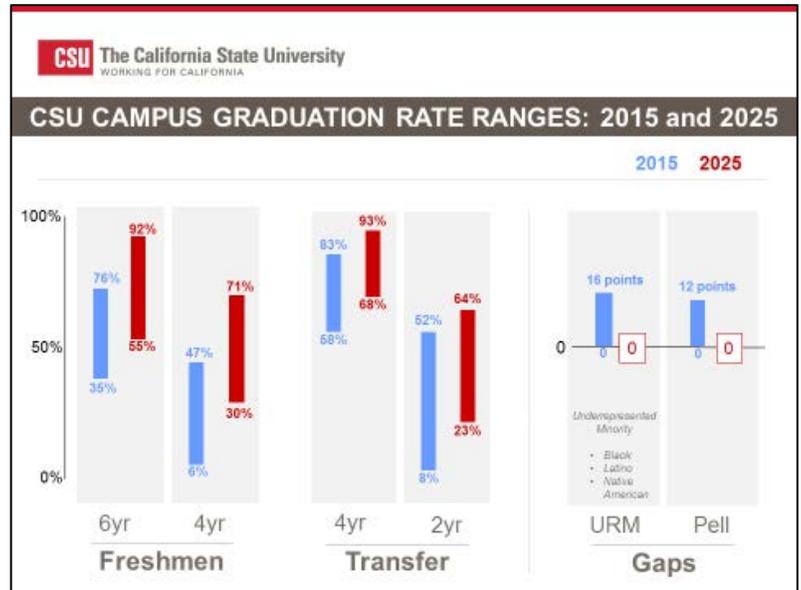
A. The Graduation Initiative 2025 Advisory Committee, composed of a cross section of campus academic and student affairs leaders, members of the CSU Board of Trustees, campus presidents and students, developed the goal-setting methodology which is based on peer comparator university data provided by Education Trust. The data benchmarks each campus against 10-15 public higher education [peer institutions](#).

Q. Are the goals aggressive enough?

A. A very small number of public comprehensive institutions have achieved the graduation levels outlined in Graduation Initiative 2025. And, none of these institutions serve students who match the economic and academic preparation profile of CSU students. The goals are extremely ambitious but achievable with a sustained investment by and support of the university’s partners including the state, students and parents, K-12 school districts and community colleges.

Q. How will the goals be achieved?

A. Every campus has created a [draft action plan](#) to achieve the new Graduation Initiative 2025 goals. The CSU system will undertake capacity-building strategies to support institutional success, including helping campuses to scale the programs and services that support degree completion.



Q. Will all CSU students be required to graduate in four years?

A. No. Not all CSU students’ schedules allow them to take 15 units per semester due to work or other family commitments. The intent of Graduation Initiative 2025 is to remove barriers and bottlenecks that impede students from achieving degrees in a timely manner.

Q. Where can I learn more about Graduation Initiative 2025?

A. Details about [Graduation Initiative 2025](#), [systemwide goals](#), [draft campus plans](#) and [student success and completion](#) are available at www.calstate.edu.