



THE INITIATIVE FOR 2006
Keeping the Promise
of California's Community Colleges

California Community Colleges Facts

- California Community Colleges are affordable and accessible. Low student fees and financial aid have made community colleges a gateway to a better life for millions of Californians.
- There are 109 community college campuses in California compared to 23 campuses for CSU and 10 for UC.
- Community college enrollment is 2,549,000 million; CSU enrollment is 332,000 and UC enrollment is 159,000.
- More than 70% of students taking college classes in California are taking them at community colleges.
- There are 463,420 Latino students in community colleges compared to 25,518 at UC and 88,445 at CSU.
- There are 117,849 African American students at community colleges compared to 6,083 at UC and 23,765 at CSU.
- There are 247,414 Asian/Pacific Islander students at community colleges compared to 68,511 at UC and 71,041 at CSU.
- Two-thirds of CSU graduates and one-third of UC graduates begin their college careers at a community college.
- Upon transferring to either four-year institution, the community college students obtain GPAs as good as students who start at UC or CSU as freshmen.
- Community colleges are cost effective when comparing what is spent per student. K-12 spends \$8,133; community colleges spend \$5,461; CSU spends \$11,624; and UC spends \$18,203.
- Community college fee increases hurt student enrollment. When fees were increased in 2004, 305,000 fewer students enrolled in California Community Colleges.
- California will need 39 percent of its workforce be college-educated by the year 2025. The state is currently on track to have 33 percent.
- California needs 3.2 million new college-educated workers—nurses, teachers, engineers and others—to keep our competitive edge.
- For every dollar spent increasing the number of students attending college and completing degrees, the state gets three dollars in return on that investment.