

# Transfer to the California State University (CSU)

## California State University

The California State University (CSU) is now the largest university system in the country with the most diverse college student population. With its 23 campuses across the state, the CSU offers more than 4,200 bachelor's and master's degree programs in over 500 subject areas, as well as teaching credential programs. The CSU provides the majority of the skilled professional workers that are critical to the state's knowledge-based industries such as agriculture, engineering, business, technology, media, and computer science. In addition, the CSU is the state's leading provider of graduates in services that are critical to the state, providing more than 80 percent of the college degrees in criminal justice, education, social work and public administration.

Over 56,000 transfer students enrolled at CSU campuses in fall 2021; more than 1,700 of these students transferred from one of the three VCCCD colleges. Nearly 95 percent of those were transfer students who began their educational program at a California Community College (CCC). In recent years, 31% to 33% of fall-admission students entering the CSU directly from high school had graduated four years after first enrolling at a CSU campus, whereas 41% to 44% of fall CCC transfers had graduated within two years of transferring to the CSU.

## CSU Campuses

California S... ☆

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CSU Bakersfield

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- California Polytechnic State University, Humboldt
- California State University, Chico
- Sonoma State University
- California State University, Sacramento
- California State University, Maritime Academy
- California State University, East Bay
- San Francisco State University
- San Jose State University
- California State University, Stanislaus
- California State University, Monterey Bay
- California State University, Fresno
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- California State University, Bakersfield
- California State University, Northridge
- California State University, Channel Islands
- California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

- California State University, San Bernardino
- California State University, Los Angeles
- California State University, Fullerton
- California State University, Dominguez Hills
- California State University, Long Beach
- California State University, San Marcos
- San Diego State University

**References:** [www2.calstate.edu/data-center/institutional-research-analyses](http://www2.calstate.edu/data-center/institutional-research-analyses),  
[www2.calstate.edu/attend/degrees-certificates-credentials/Pages/search-degrees-results.aspx](http://www2.calstate.edu/attend/degrees-certificates-credentials/Pages/search-degrees-results.aspx)

## California State University Requirements

### California State University (CSU) Minimum Transfer Admission Requirements

All California State University campuses welcome applications from transfer students. A student who completes college units after the summer following graduation from high school is considered to be a transfer student. The CSU gives priority admission consideration to California Community College (CCC) students who meet the CSU upper-division transfer admission requirements. However, the highest admission priority is given to CCC students who have earned a CCC Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT). CCC students will be considered as having achieved junior class level standing once they have completed the ADT or at least 60 semester (90 quarter) transferable-level units that meet their lower-division major requirements. The number of units completed at the time a student enters a CSU determines the admission standards that will apply to their application.

A student who is planning to transfer to one of the campuses of the California State University (except CSU Maritime Academy) can satisfy the minimum admission criteria by meeting the following requirements:

#### 1. Transferring with an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT)

CCC students who are awarded an associate degree for transfer (AA-T/AS-T) and meet the CSU minimum admission requirements are guaranteed admission with junior standing and are given priority admission consideration when applying to a program that has been deemed similar to the degree earned at the student's community college. An up-to-date list of associate degrees for transfer offered by CCC, and CSU campuses where majors are aligned with those associate degrees for transfer and deemed similar can be found at [Associate Degree for Transfer Major and Campus Search](#). Once admitted, the student will only be required to complete 60 additional prescribed semester units to qualify for a similar baccalaureate degree.

To obtain an AA-T/AS-T degree, students must:

- Complete 60 semester units (or 90 quarter units) that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:
  - Certified completion of the California State University General Education-Breadth (CSU GE Breadth) pattern or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) for CSU pattern.
  - Completion of a minimum of 18 semester units in an “AA-T” or “AS-T” major as required. All courses in the major must be completed with a grade of C or better or a “P” if the course is taken on a “pass-no-pass” basis (Title 5 § 55063). Even though a “pass-no-pass” is allowed, it is recommended that students complete their major courses with a letter grade.
- Earn a minimum grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 in all CSU-transferable coursework. While a minimum of 2.0 is deemed eligible for transfer into a CSU program, some majors may require a higher GPA. Please consult the [assist.org](https://assist.org) website and/or with a counselor for more information.
- Complete Residency requirements. For students in the Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD), a minimum of 12 units must be completed in residence at the college granting the degree.

**Note:** SB 1440 does not guarantee a student admission to a specified major or campus, but requires the California State University to grant a student priority admission consideration to the local CSU campus and to a program or major that is similar to the transfer AA-T and AS-T degree as determined by the California State University. With this degree, students may be given a GPA bump when applying to an impacted campus outside their local area or an impacted major that is deemed similar.

## 2. Upper Division Transfer Requirements

To qualify for admission as an upper-division transfer, applicants must have completed a minimum of 60 semester (or 90 quarter) transferable units and have met the following requirements:

- The applicant must complete at least 30 semester (45 quarter) units of general education courses. Students may visit [assist.org](https://assist.org) for a full listing of courses at each CCC that meet CSU General Education requirements or see the CSU GE- Breadth courses list in this catalog for applicable college courses.
- The applicant must complete transferable courses (CSU GE-Breadth category A) with grades of C- or better in written communication, oral communication, and critical thinking.
- The applicant must complete one transferable course (CSU GE-Breadth category B4) with a grade of C- or better in mathematics or quantitative reasoning.
- The applicant must have achieved a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or better in all transferable college units attempted.

- The applicant is expected to be in good standing at the last college or university attended (i.e. eligible to re-enroll at that college or university).

### 3. Lower Division Transfer Requirements

An applicant who completes fewer than 60 semester (90 quarter) units is considered a lower-division transfer student.

Please be aware that due to enrollment pressures, most CSU campuses do not admit lower-division transfers so that more upper-division transfers can be accommodated. Be sure to check with the specific CSU campus if you are considering transferring as a lower-division student.

## Preparing to Transfer to the California State University System

Students planning to transfer to one of the California State Universities must keep the following requirements in mind when selecting courses:

1. **Completion and Certification of General Education (GE) is Strongly Recommended:** The CSU requires completion of 48 semester units (72 quarter units) of general education for graduation of which up to 39 semester units can be transferred and certified by a California Community College. It is strongly recommended that a student completes the 39 units of CSU GE-Breadth courses as part of their minimum 60 semester-unit requirement for transfer as an upper-division student. Certification waives additional lower-division general education requirements that each CSU campus otherwise requires. It is important that students request certification prior to transfer. Certification is not automatic. Students can complete their GE by either of the following:
  1. Complete CSU GE-Breadth
  2. Complete IGETC
2. **American Institutions Requirement:** The CSU requires each student to be knowledgeable about the Constitution of the United States, American history, and state and local government. The “U.S. History, Constitution, and American Ideals Requirement” is generally known as the American Institutions requirement. While not a part of GE, it is still a graduation requirement at all CSU campuses. Students may complete this requirement while at a community college. All CCCs have designated courses that satisfy the CSU’s American Institutions requirement. The colleges of the VCCCD allow courses used to fulfill the American Institutions requirement to also satisfy requirements in area D of the CSU GE-Breadth or Area 4 of IGETC. Certification of the CSU GE-Breadth or IGETC guarantees that courses can double count, whereas without certification, individual CSU campuses may not allow courses to fulfill both area D and American Institutions.
3. **Prerequisite Courses for the Major:** Some lower-division courses in the student’s major must be taken prior to transfer in order for the student to be admitted into a particular major. Some majors may also require concentration courses or additional support courses. For a complete list of major

and supporting requirements at your CSU destination campus and their comparable courses at this college, go to [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org).

- 4. Supplemental Admission Criteria/Impacted Majors:** In the CSU, an undergraduate major or campus is designated as impacted when it receives more eligible applicants than either the campus or the major can accommodate. In such instances, the CSU campuses have been authorized to use supplemental admission criteria to screen applicants to these majors and/or campuses. There are subtle, yet important, differences between major and campus impaction. Major impaction means that the number of applications from fully eligible students to a designated major on a CSU campus during the initial filing period far exceeds the number of spaces available in that major. However, students can still be admitted to the campus in an alternate major, or they may eventually be admitted to the oversubscribed major if they meet the supplemental admission criteria.

Students interested in an impacted major or campus must apply for admission during the initial admission application filing period (Oct. 1–Nov. 30 for fall admission) and should strive to make themselves as competitive as possible, both in course preparation and GPA. Applicants to majors or campuses that are impacted should apply to additional CSU campuses to maximize the opportunity for admission. A number of CSU campuses are impacted in some majors but the following CSU campuses are impacted in all undergraduate programs, pre-programs, and undeclared/undecided programs:

- CSU Fresno
- CSU Fullerton
- CSU Long Beach
- CSU Los Angeles
- San Diego State University
- San Jose State University, and
- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

The website [assist.org](http://assist.org) will provide information about required coursework in impacted majors. For the most up-to-date information on campus impaction and impacted programs, please go to [Impaction at the CSU](#).

- 5. Transferability of Courses:** Only courses considered as appropriate for baccalaureate credit are transferable. In this catalog, these courses are indicated in their course descriptions by the notation “Transfer credit: CSU.” A maximum of 70 semester (105 quarter) baccalaureate units earned at community colleges may be transferred to the CSU. Community college coursework completed above the 70 units may be used to meet general education, or major preparation requirements even if the units will not count toward the baccalaureate degree. Credit for external exams such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) will not count in the 70 unit limit. Transfer credit is also granted to students who

successfully complete equivalent courses at other regionally accredited four-year colleges or universities.

6. **Transfer Grade Point Average:** Calculations of transfer grade point averages include all transferable units attempted at all colleges attended and are part of transfer admission requirements.
7. **Applying to the CSU:** Students are strongly encouraged to apply electronically at [Cal State Apply](#).
  - File a CSU admission application online through Cal State Apply as early as possible. The application period for fall admission is October 1st through November 30th. Some campuses may have different deadlines based on the number of students applying for admission to that campus.
  - Applicants are requested to identify the completed, pending or in progress AA-T/AS-T degree on their Cal State Apply application. Preliminary verification of the degree is done by the community college via the ADT e-Verify site for inclusion in campus admission decisions. Final verification of the awarded ADT is done upon submission of official transcripts showing the posted degree.
  - If you have college/university coursework in progress, have the final transcripts sent to the CSU campus admission office as soon as the most recent grades have been posted.

**Important Note:** *Final official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended and/or external credit documentation must be submitted prior to CSU enrollment to verify that the student is eligible for admission. CSU campuses may rescind admission, delay admission, or not permit registration or attendance until receipt of final transcripts and/or external credit documentation has been verified. Students should request that official transcripts be sent directly to the CSU campus from all colleges or universities previously attended, even if no coursework was completed. Transcripts must be received in sealed envelopes from each institution attended. In some cases, transcripts may be sent electronically to CSU campuses. Students should keep personal copies of all transcripts and test scores for admission application and academic advising sessions. High school transcripts and SAT/ACT test scores are not required for upper-division transfer students.*

These admission requirements are subject to change. Students should consult a counselor and/or the [Cal State Apply](#) website for the most up-to-date transfer requirements.

**Reference:** The [CSU Admission Handbook 2021-2022 & 2022-2023](#).

## **California State University General Education (CSU GE-Breadth) Pattern 2022-2023**

### **Area A: English Language Communication and Critical Thinking**

Complete one course from each group (A1, A2, and A3). A total of 9 semester (12-15 quarter) units are required.

- + **A1 - Oral Communication**
- + **A2 - Written Communication**
- + **A3 - Critical Thinking**

## **Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning**

Complete a minimum of 9 semester (12 - 15 quarter) units with one course from each group (B1, B2, B3, B4) to include one laboratory activity course (B3) corresponding to a selected science lecture course.

- + **B1 - Physical Science**
- + **B2 - Life Science**
- + **B3 - Laboratory Activity**
- + **B4 - Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning**

## **Area C: Arts and Humanities**

Complete 9 semester (12 - 15 quarter) units with at least one course from Area C1 and from Area C2, and the third course from C1 or C2

- + **C1 - Arts (Art, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theater)**
- + **C2 - Humanities (Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English)**

## **Area D: Social Sciences**

-New students starting at Moorpark College (or any CCC or CSU) **beginning** Fall 2021 or later need to complete 6 semester or 9 quarter units for CSU GE Certification. Courses can be from the same or different disciplines.

- Students who started at Moorpark College (or any CCC or CSU) **prior** to Fall 2021 or later and have maintained continuous enrollment, need to complete 9 semester or 12 quarter units for CSU GE



Certification. Courses must be taken from more than one discipline.

+ **D - Social Science**

## **Area E: Life Long Learning & Self-Development**

+ **Area E - Life Long Learning & Self-Development**

## **Area F: Ethnic Studies**

+ **Area F - Ethnic Studies**

## **Title V: CSU Graduation Requirement in U.S. History, Constitution & American Ideals**

(Not part of CSU certification but may be completed prior to transfer, 6 units). One course from each Group. It may also be used in Area D.

+ **Group 1: US-1 Historical Development of American Institutions and Ideals**

+ **Group 2: US-2 (U.S Constitution and Government); US-3(California State and Local Government)**

## **CSU GE-Breadth Certification Information**

It is highly recommended that students planning to transfer to a California State University (CSU) complete their lower-division general education prior to transfer by following the CSU GE-Breadth plan. Counselors can help students select courses that fulfill lower-division major requirements as well as general education.

Students who fully complete the CSU GE-Breadth at this college will also be eligible to apply for a Certificate of Achievement in California State University General Education-Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth). CSU GE-Breadth is not appropriate for every major/college within the CSU. Check on [assist.org](https://assist.org) or with a college counselor or the Transfer Center for updated information.

## **Certification**

After students complete the CSU GE-Breadth pattern, they must meet with a counselor in the Counseling Office to request certification. Without this “certification,” students may have additional lower-division general education requirements to fulfill after transfer that vary from campus to campus in the CSU. Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs) require full certification. Certification is not automatic.

Certification of the CSU General Education Breadth requirements may include courses completed at this college and previously completed courses from other regionally accredited institutions as well as external examinations (AP/IB/CLEP).

Courses completed at other CSU campuses or at California Community Colleges (CCC) must be certified in accordance with their General Education Patterns. It is the student’s responsibility to provide an official transcript(s) from external institutions and/or official test scores for external exams.

Courses that have been completed at a regionally accredited institution other than a California community college or CSU will be included only under the following circumstances:

1. The student provides an official transcript, catalog description(s) and, if required, dated course outline(s);
2. The course is determined to be equivalent to a course in this college’s CSU General Education-Breadth pattern through the pass-along process in accordance with California State University Executive Orders (EO), the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Resolution on Reciprocity and VCCCD AP 4100.

## **Partial Certification**

It is possible to complete separately any of the Areas or sections (A–F) at a CCC and receive partial certification in any or several of these areas; students who receive partial certification will need to complete the remaining areas (and perhaps other areas) after transferring as defined by the catalog of the transfer school.

## **Course Restrictions**

No course may be counted in more than one Area.

## **Scholarship**

A grade of “C–” or better is required for each course completed in the oral communication (A1), written communication (A2), critical thinking (A3), and mathematics or quantitative reasoning (B4) of the CSU GE-Breadth. A “pass” or “P” is allowed, if the college’s catalog states that it is equivalent to a “C” or better. Although a “P” is permissible, it is highly recommended that students complete each of these four (4) courses with a letter grade (“A”, “B” or “C”).

**Note:** While a "C-" can be used for CSU GE-Breadth Certification, students earning an Associate degree cannot use this grade to meet written competency or Mathematics competency requirements. A grade of "C-" also cannot be used for a Certificate of Achievement in CSU GE-Breadth which requires all courses be completed with a grade of "C" or better or "P".

Major Courses: Most campuses require a grade of "C" or better for each course required in preparation for a student's major; most do not allow a "P" (Pass) grade for major courses. Some CSU campuses allow applicants who submit full or partial certification to double count courses for general education and major requirements. Some majors are highly selective and require completion of some, or all, of the required major preparation coursework prior to transfer. Consult a college counselor or [assist.org](https://www.csuassist.org) for more information.

## **U.S. History, Constitution and American Ideals Requirements**

All campuses require students to complete college-level coursework in U.S. History, American Government and California Government, in addition to GE requirements for graduation. Courses approved to satisfy this requirement are specified in appropriate areas. CSU campuses may permit double counting of courses taken to meet this requirement and CSU GE-Breadth if the student is partially or fully certified.

External Credits or Credit by Examination Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams will be included in the CSU certification of general education requirements in accordance with the CSU Chancellor's Office policy. Students wishing to use units awarded for AP, IB, or CLEP should check with a Counselor or refer to the Credit for Prior Learning section of this catalog.

**References:** *CSU Executive Order 1036 (PolicyStat ID 10711339), CSU Coded Memo ASA-2019-03 (no PolicyStat ID), CSU Executive Order 1100 (PolicyStat ID: 8919100), CSU Coded Memo ASA-2016-18 (PolicyStat ID: 9540581).*