



GI 2025 UPDATE



CSU, Bakersfield Graduation Initiative Activities Report for 2021-2022

In September 2016, the California State University (CSU) launched Graduation Initiative 2025, an ambitious plan to increase graduation rates, eliminate equity gaps in degree completion and meet California's workforce needs. As an active participant in the initiative, CSU Bakersfield has worked diligently to work towards meeting our 2025 targets. Despite our good progress, we recognize that there is still much to do, particularly given the formidable challenges associated with the global health crisis. Now more than ever, Graduation Initiative 2025 stands as the CSU's guiding beacon to better support our students and promote equitable opportunities for timely degree completion. This report details some of the tactics deployed during the last academic year to support student success during these challenging times.

Academic Preparation



During Summer 2022, CSUB offered a mixed-modality Early Start program to 72 incoming freshmen, with access to free tutoring and peer mentoring support. Of those who enrolled, 85% successfully completed ENGL 1100; 58% successfully completed MATH 1100 and were able to proceed into MATH 1050 or MATH 2200 in Fall 2022; and 81% successfully completed MATH 1209 or PSYC 2018, receiving credit toward their B4 requirement.

CSUB also offered an opportunity for 40 continuing students to complete their written communication and quantitative reasoning general education requirements through the First Year Finish program. Of those who enrolled, 88% successfully completed ENGL 1109, earning credit toward their A2 requirement; and 70% successfully completed MATH 1050, MATH 1209, MATH 2200, MATH 3120, or PSYC 2018, earning credit toward their B4 requirement. Additionally, \$57,000 was dispersed to 26 of the students to cover their course fees.

Enrollment Management



CSUB's re-entry student policy has been revised to allow students in good standing to re-enter the university after an absence of up to 3 years without having to reapply to the university through Cal State Apply. In January 2022, the Office of Enrollment Management identified 478 students who were in good standing but were no longer enrolled, called 440 of those students, spoke with 362 of them to invite them to return to campus, and 104 of these students re-enrolled in the university during Spring 2022.

The temporary financial balance-due threshold of \$1,000 has been made permanent. This will minimize the number of students who are dropped from classes for minimal balances. The Admissions office has established two Information Desks on campus and a Virtual Information Desk for students to ask any question and be personally directed or escorted to their desired location. This increases access to resources and provides a sense of caring, welcoming and belonging to students who are in need of information and connection. Also, 24-hour virtual tutoring services are now available through the writing resource center to support students during non-traditional hours.

Student Engagement and Well-Being



During AY 2021-22, CSUB continued to strengthen its efforts to meet the wellness needs of our students through a variety of programs. Our food pantry served 5237 students and we distributed food boxes to 994 students. In the Edible Garden, we harvested 7400 pounds of food that all went to provide students fresh fruits and vegetables in the Food Pantry, had 1850 visits to our weekly farm stand, and had students serve 1995 volunteers hours. In addition, we had 19 students utilize emergency housing services. Through the funding from the state legislature, Basic Needs was able to hire a Director, Edible Garden Manager, and Case Manager. Student Affairs launched YOU @ CSUB which provides students with wellness tips and tools, interactive resources, and online support. The Counseling Center saw 482 students for a total of 2608 sessions and our psychiatrist saw 44 students for a total of 168 sessions.

Financial Support



To assist students with on-time graduation, \$98,743 was disbursed through Runner Completion Grants. This program covered tuition/fees for 49 students so that they could complete their final term and graduate on time. Several Efforts were also made to re-enroll students. To support this population, 2 grants were created and awarded - \$14,800 in Re-Enrollment Grants were disbursed to 17 students and \$50,564 in Senior Emergency Grants were disbursed to 20 students. To support students residing on campus, \$47,834 was disbursed to 51 students via the Future Scholars Awards. Extra financial support was provided to high need students via the Supplemental State University Grants: \$856,473 to 1017 students. In addition, the campus received approximately 13 petitions from students requesting one additional term of State University Grant (SUG) funding after having reached the maximum unit limit, amounting in Total Disbursed: \$44,442.00 in awards.

Data-Informed Decision-Making



An eleven-person team of faculty, staff, and administrators participated in the CSU Certificate Program in Student Success Analytics. This program helps participants develop advanced data literacy skills as well as engage in hands-on data action projects. The CSU Bakersfield team's project, "Defining the New Normal" focused on sharing pandemic-related data to determine what a "new normal" means for our campus community. In addition, several cross-divisional workgroups have been working to improve data hygiene to support better-informed decisions.

Administrative Barriers



The Office of Financial Aid implemented Campus Logic Student Forms and Scholarships Universe products to provide superior experience for students that are submitting verification forms and applying for campus scholarships. This software allows for e-signature for students and parents and prevents students from making errors that delay the processing of financial aid. It also helps on the processing end by greatly reducing the time for staff to complete the verification review processing. In an effort to make updates and timely communications more accessible to students, a departmental Instagram account, @csubfinancialaid was established, which currently has over 600 followers.