

The California Master Plan for Higher Education

The California Promise

The California Master Plan for Higher Education was originally adopted by the Legislature in 1960. The Master Plan has been periodically updated, with the most recent up-date being the 2002 California Master Plan for Education.

The 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education established, and the 2002 California Master Plan for Education reaffirms, the state's commitment to the following:

ACCESS -- Admission of all eligible students:

The California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) systems should continue to adhere to the policy of guaranteeing that all students who apply for freshman admission and who are eligible to attend are offered admission to the system(s) for which they are eligible and have applied. Eligible students are those within the top one-third of high school graduates, in the case of the CSU, and the top one-eighth of high school graduates, in the case of the University of California.

Community colleges should continue to be open to all high school graduates and adults who can benefit from postsecondary instruction.

AFFORDABILITY -- Student Fees and Financial aid:

The 1960 Master Plan for California Higher Education strongly endorsed low student charges, prohibited tuition (direct payment for instruction), and assumed that fees were the most important factor in steering young adults toward or away from college.

Any change in student fee policy should be complemented by a corresponding adjustment in financial aid policy that would recognize the overall costs of attending a postsecondary educational institution in California. California should also continue its commitment to use state financial aid policies to encourage and enable students who want to pursue their postsecondary education goals at independent and private postsecondary educational institutions.

The State should maintain a need-based financial aid and scholarship program to assist students from low-income backgrounds to pursue their educational objectives in a California college or university. In addition, the State should assure outreach and distribution of information regarding financial aid to students from low-income families and under-represented groups.

EQUITY -- Preparation programs:

The State should provide the learning support necessary, including resources for career guidance and assistance, to enable students to successfully complete a postsecondary readiness curriculum.

All students should:

- Receive an education, including intervention when necessary, that is sufficient to allow successful transition into the next levels of education and into the workforce;
- Receive supplementary educational services when needed to meet grade/class level expectations;
- Receive counseling and academic advising to assist in successful educational progress and planning;
- Be provided with sufficient information regarding educational, economic, social, and political options to be able to make informed choices for his or her future; and
- Receive adequate financial support for postsecondary education attendance.

QUALITY –

The State should:

- Provide adequate funding to ensure that the essential pre-conditions for quality teaching and learning would be provided; and
- Monitor the performance of educational institutions to ensure that every public education institution develops a capacity to help all students meet or exceed specified achievement standards.
- Maintain mission differentiation among the segments:

UC: Offers Bachelor, Master, professional degrees and the Ph.D., primary research and public service function, minor responsibility for Teacher Credential.

CSU: Offers Bachelor and Masters degrees, primary responsibility for Teacher Credentials, minor research and public service functions.

CCC: Offers AA (two-year academic degrees) as preparation for UC and CSU, vocational and adult education, and non-credit education.