

CSU The California State University

FIND YOUR FUTURE AT THE CSU



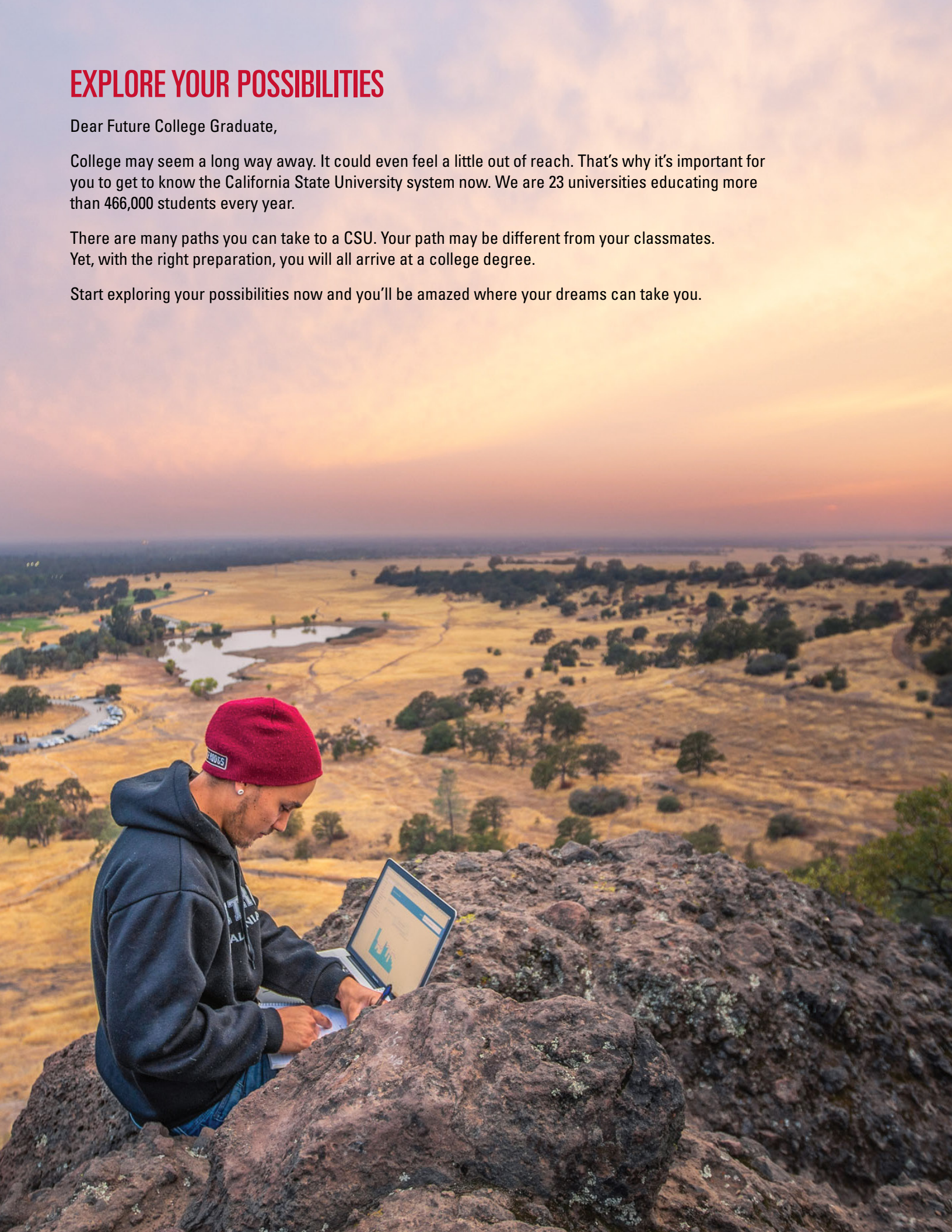
EXPLORE YOUR POSSIBILITIES

Dear Future College Graduate,

College may seem a long way away. It could even feel a little out of reach. That's why it's important for you to get to know the California State University system now. We are 23 universities educating more than 466,000 students every year.

There are many paths you can take to a CSU. Your path may be different from your classmates. Yet, with the right preparation, you will all arrive at a college degree.

Start exploring your possibilities now and you'll be amazed where your dreams can take you.





GETTING STARTED: COLLEGE 101

Imagine this is your first day of College 101. In this class you're not alone as students your age are more likely than any other generation before you to attend college. A college degree is a gateway to a wide range of professions such as scientists, artists, engineers, teachers and so much more. College may introduce you to a new career you don't even know about today!

So how do you prepare for college? Let's start with these ABCs:

A. DISCOVER

You may know what sparks your interest—whether it's performing on stage, being on a team, building with your hands or solving a math equation. That's great! Keep focused on these hobbies that eventually may turn into what you study in college.

B. PREPARE

Start practicing now on setting goals and earning good grades. If you need help with your study skills, ask your family, teachers and school counselors for help. Find out what classes meet the CSU's admissions requirements. One simple way to do this is to create an Academic Planner on [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://california.colleges.edu)—it's free and online!

C. CONNECT

There are many resources available to help you plan and pay for your college degree. Whether you choose to attend a private or public college, financial aid can help you pay for the cost to attend—including scholarships and grants that are free money for college. As a public university, the CSU offers one of the most affordable college degrees in the nation.



A. DISCOVER

INTERESTS TODAY BECOME CAREERS TOMORROW

CSU graduates have reached for the stars, including the first Hispanic woman to go into space Ellen Ochoa, and they have illuminated our imagination such as award-winning film directors Steven Spielberg, Eva Longoria and Ryan Coogler. Many have dedicated their lives to public service, serving as school superintendents, fire chiefs, mayors, members of the state Legislature and heads of nonprofit organizations.

What many CSU graduates have in common is that their careers were sparked by interests they discovered early in their lives. Do you like to investigate what makes things work? Your career choice may be in science, technology or a health profession. Do you like to share what you've learned with others? You may be a teacher, a writer or an artist. Do you feel called to lead others? You might want to own your own business someday or have a career in public service.

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT INTERESTS ME?

- ☐ Try new activities at school or in your community.
- ☐ Join a club or play a new sport.
- ☐ Volunteer in your neighborhood.
- ☐ Take an elective course in a foreign language or music.
- ☐ Explore potential careers with your free CaliforniaColleges.edu account.
- ☐ Ask family members, friends and teachers who know you best about what possible careers may be a good fit for you.

WHO HOLDS A CSU DEGREE?



ONE IN EVERY 20
Americans with
a college degree.



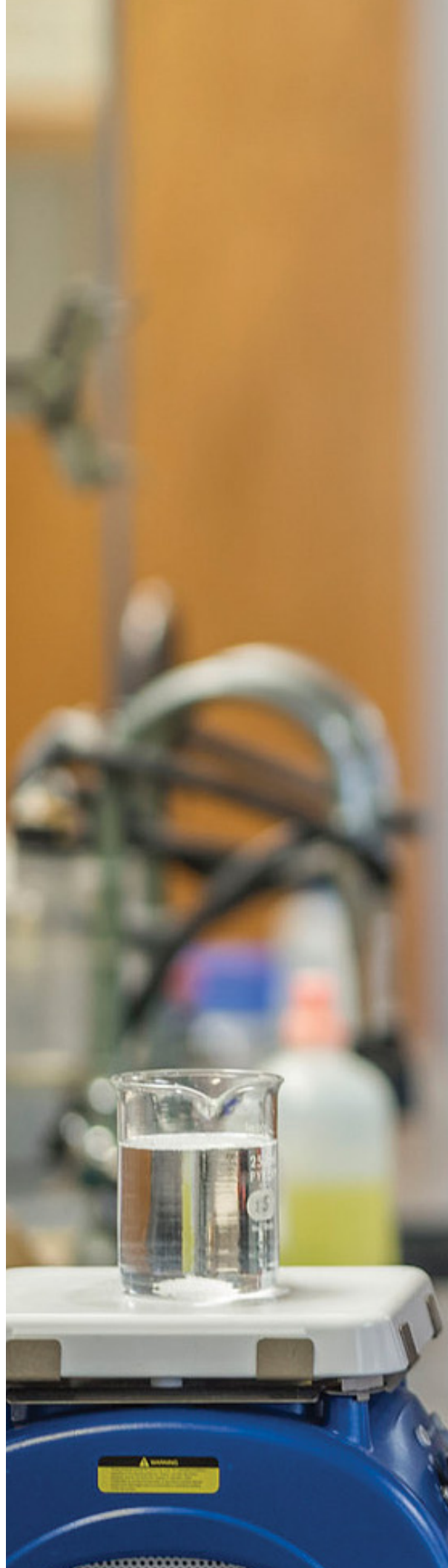
ONE IN TEN
employees in California.



ONE IN EVERY 20
teachers in California.



ONE IN FIVE
architects in California.



B. PREPARE

GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE STARTS NOW

If you haven't spoken to a teacher or counselor about college, seek someone out today. There are many questions you may want to start thinking about. Would you like to stay close to home for college or move away? Are you interested in a small college community or do you think you'll like the excitement of a large university?

Next, consider the type of programs—or majors—you'd like to explore in college. The courses you take now, such as math and languages, can play a role in your college applications. Some majors are more popular than others, which may mean there may be more competition to get in. It's important to practice good study skills and earn good grades now to make sure you're prepared to succeed tomorrow.

DID YOU KNOW?

- One CSU application works for all 23 universities.
- You can live on a campus or commute from home.
- The CSU offers more than 4,000 majors and programs.
- Today there are 4 million CSU graduates.



C. CONNECT

FUND YOUR FUTURE WITH THE RIGHT RESOURCES

A college degree can mean the difference of earning \$1 million more in income over a lifetime compared with a high school diploma. However, the cost of college can add up as well including tuition, books, food and housing.

The good news is that there are many ways to pay for college. Some resources are free, including scholarships and grants. Additional ways to pay for college include having a part-time job on campus (known as work-study) or taking out a loan that you or your parents will need to pay back over time. You will want to apply for financial aid to find out what is available to you.

More than 80% of CSU students receive financial aid.

THE VALUE OF A CSU DEGREE

- The CSU is a public university with a mission to make college more accessible for more California students.
- More than half of CSU undergraduates have their tuition paid through grants, scholarships and waivers.
- The CSU is consistently ranked among the top universities in social mobility.

ADDING IT ALL UP

Learn about ways to fund your college education through your free **CaliforniaColleges.edu** account.





TAKE A COLLEGE-FIRST PLEDGE

Do you want a college degree? Now is the time to make the pledge to put college first. This will mean committing yourself to doing your best today, so that you are prepared to succeed tomorrow.

TO BE ACCEPTED TO THE CSU, YOU MUST:

- ☐ Complete specific high school courses.
- ☐ Achieve suitable grades in specific courses.
- ☐ Graduate from high school or the equivalent.

THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW TO GET READY:

- ☐ Discover a new hobby.
- ☐ Prepare with your free Academic Planner at **CaliforniaColleges.edu** to track your courses.
- ☐ Connect by taking a virtual campus tour at <https://www.calstate.edu/apply/choosing-a-campus>



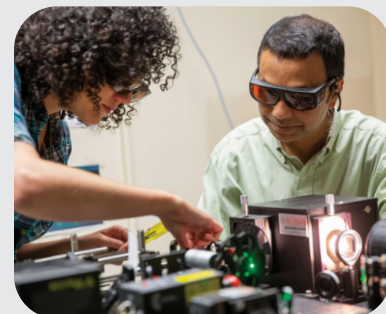
**List one person you can talk to who can help you meet your goals.
This could be a parent, family member or a teacher at school:**

LET'S TALK COLLEGE

- “A-G” Courses—The college preparatory courses you take in high school to be eligible to attend a CSU.
- AP—Advanced Placement, courses that you can take in high school that may earn you college credit.
- FAFSA—Free Application for Federal Student Aid, a form to complete when you graduate high school to request financial aid. Students without lawful immigration status may be eligible for financial aid. Visit dream.csac.ca.gov.
- GPA—Grade Point Average, the average of your grades during a particular time period.
- Major—An academic pathway that results in a degree.
- Transcript—An official record of your courses and grades.
- Undergraduate degree—A bachelor’s degree (completed at a CSU or other four-year college).

23 OPPORTUNITIES

At the CSU, you have 23 universities to find the one that fits you best. From San Diego in the south to Cal Poly Humboldt in the north, to Monterey Bay on the coast, to Fresno State in the San Joaquin Valley, and many places in between. Discover us online or plan a visit to one of our universities.



23 UNIVERSITIES. 4,000 DEGREES. 4 MILLION ALUMNI.

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For more information, visit [GoToCSU.com](https://www.go.calstate.edu).

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