

# CPEC

# News Release

California Postsecondary Education Commission  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **State projections show demand for slots at CSU continues to grow**

*Limited state funding means that the system is turning away many students*

SACRAMENTO — December 9, 2009 — Newly released projections from the California Postsecondary Education Commission warn the state to prepare for 58,000 additional undergraduates at California State University by 2015.

The projections show that undergraduate enrollment demand will climb from 362,000 students in fall 2008 to 420,000 students in fall 2015. Enrollment demand will level off after 2015 as the college-age population decreases.

Enrollment demand is an estimate of the number of students who would enroll at CSU if fees were affordable and enrollment was not constrained by reduced state funding. Currently, enrollment demand exceeds actual enrollments by about 23,000 students because the state is not providing CSU with enough funding to fully meet demand.

CPEC's demand forecast takes into account four key factors: recent trends in college-going rates of high school graduates, community college transfer rates, and CSU's persistence and graduation rates. College-going rates to CSU have increased in the past several years, because more high school students are taking the college preparatory curriculum that qualifies them for CSU. Overall, fall-term CSU enrollments grew by 9% between 2005 and 2008.

### **Budget cuts**

Even though enrollment demand is climbing, state budget cuts have forced CSU to reduce enrollments for the new 2009–10 school year. CSU estimates that actual fall enrollments are down by about 4,000 students from fall 2008. Admission slots will be cut by 20,000 this coming spring, and by another 20,000 in 2010–11. The gap between enrollment demand and the number of students that can be accommodated will widen, reaching 56,000 in 2010–11. "It's unlikely that the state will be able to muster up any significant level of enrollment growth funding," said Stacy

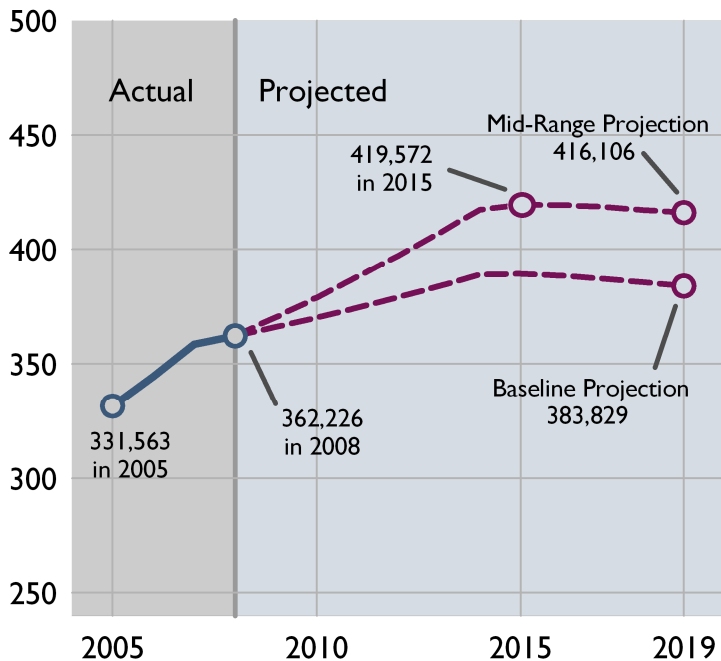
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Wilson, the CPEC researcher who directed the enrollment study. “It’s encouraging that the CSU is committed to reducing the average-time-to-degree. Moving students through the system more efficiently will free up more first-time freshman and transfer admission slots on the front end.”

**The Master Plan**

The state Legislature is currently reviewing the state’s 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education, which has guided the development of California higher education over the past 50 years. One of the principles in the Master Plan is that all Californians should have the opportunity for a high-quality, low-cost college education. CPEC projections show a growing gap between enrollment demand and the number of funded university slots. “The state is not delivering the promise of the Master Plan any more,” said CPEC Commission chair John Perez. “CSU is limiting access and raising fees in order to keep afloat. We no longer have the open, affordable, state university system that we once had in California.”

**Enrollment Demand Projections for CSU**



The Mid-Range Forecast continues upward trends in first-time freshman participation rates for the first three projection years and then holds rates constant for the remaining years. Transfer rates were generally held constant, consistent with historical trends.

The Baseline Forecast holds freshman and transfer participation rates constant at 2008 levels for the entire projection period.

The data used to draw this graph is on page 3 of this news release.

This is CPEC’s second report in the *Ready or Not Here They Come* series. The first report released in September looked at demand at the community colleges, and confirmed what community college officials had been saying for some time: enrollments are at an all-time high and demand will continue to grow over the next decade. CPEC estimated that the state should plan for 313,000 additional community college students by 2019. The final report in the series focusing on the University of California will be released in March.

**Commission meeting**

CPEC staff will present the report at the quarterly meeting on December 15. Other items to be discussed include an update on the consequences that budget cuts are having on students, a vote on whether to approve conversion of the Butte–Glenn Community College District’s Chico facility to an educational center, and an annual report on CPEC’s program planning and review activities in the 2008–09 academic year.

Paul Navarro, Deputy Legislative Secretary for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Office for K-12 and higher education, will discuss the Administration’s priorities for higher education in the final year of the Governor’s term. Also, Assemblymember Ira Ruskin, co-chair of the Joint Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education, will discuss his perspectives on the state’s postsecondary education systems as well as the upcoming review of the Master Plan.

A meeting agenda and reports may be viewed at [www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agnd0912.asp](http://www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agnd0912.asp).

**Data for Graph on Page 2**

	Actual enrollments	Baseline projection	Mid-range projection
	————— thousands —————		
2005	332		
2006	344		
2007	359		
2008	362	362	362
2009		366	370
2010		370	379
2011		374	388
2012		379	397
2013		384	407
2014		389	417
2015		389	420
2016		388	419
2017		387	419
2018		386	417
2019		384	416

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*The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission’s primary focus is to ensure that the state’s educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.*