

Student Outcomes Overview

Sacramento State University



INTRODUCTION

Sacramento State University values creating and sustaining clear and accessible pathways to student success. To gauge how well the university supports its diversity student population, the university prioritizes tracking and monitoring student success outcomes. The university relies on three main sources for student outcomes data:

[CSUS Student Success Dashboards](#)

[CSU Data Dashboards](#)

[WSCUC Key Indicators Dashboard](#)

Sacramento State serves a high-access student population, maintains comparatively affordable pathways to degree completion, and produces positive educational and economic outcomes. Sacramento State's retention and graduation outcomes have remained stable or improved over the review period, with performance generally meeting or exceeding national benchmarks. These findings demonstrate the institution's continued commitment to supporting student persistence and degree completion.

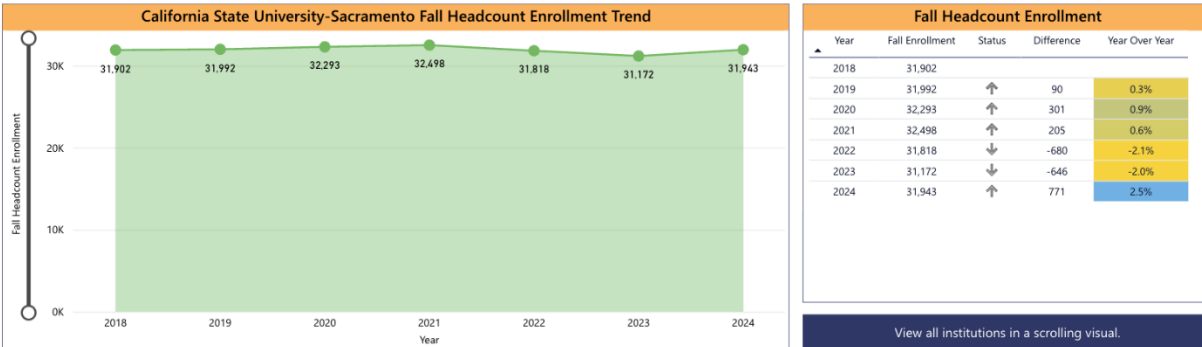
Outcomes for Pell Grant recipients and transfer students reflect Sacramento State's mission as an access-oriented institution serving a diverse student population. While opportunities for improvement remain, student success outcomes indicate that many historically underserved students are achieving positive educational results.

Post-graduation earnings data demonstrate that a Sacramento State degree provides substantial economic value. Graduates consistently earn more than high school graduates and compare favorably with peer institutions on measures of earnings and social mobility.

Affordability indicators, including relatively low student debt and a substantial Pell-eligible population, reflect Sacramento State's commitment to educational access while helping students complete their degrees with manageable financial burdens.

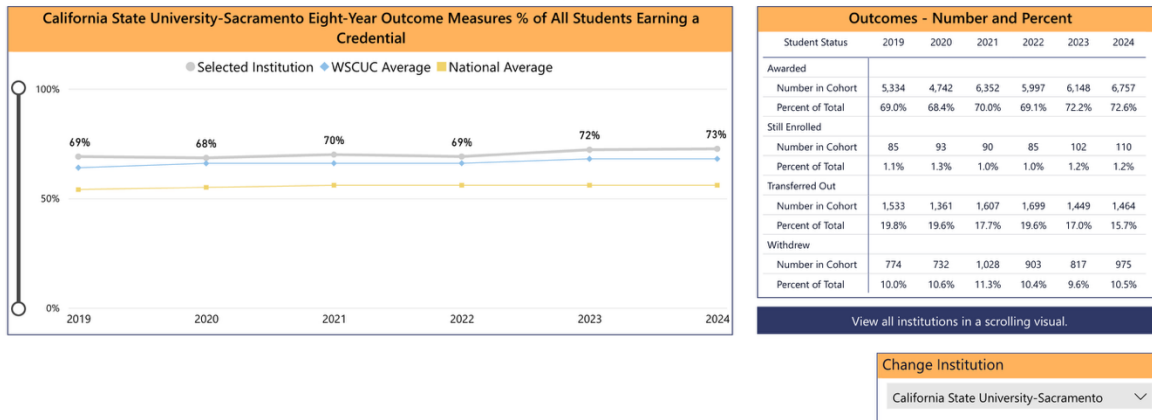
The Sacramento State Steering Committee relied on each of the aforementioned dashboards during data collection, analysis, and writing of the report. This document provides brief discussions of selected Student Outcome Overview graphs and tables, many of which are referenced in the report and were used to contextualize the institution's discussion of student success and post-graduate outcomes.

Fall Headcount Enrollment Trend



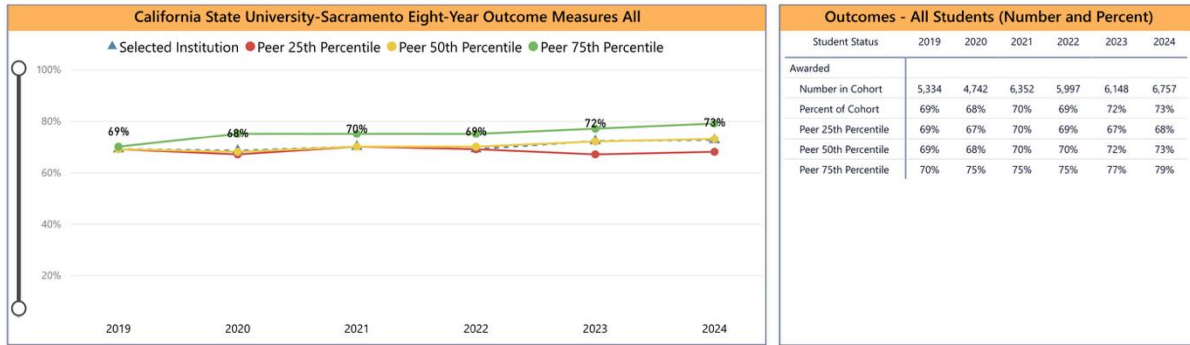
Sacramento State has had steady enrollment with the fall headcount averaging 31,945 between 2018 and 2024. Slight dips in enrollment were recorded in 2023 and 2024.

Eight-Year Outcome Measures All Entering Degree/Certificate-Seeking Undergraduate Students



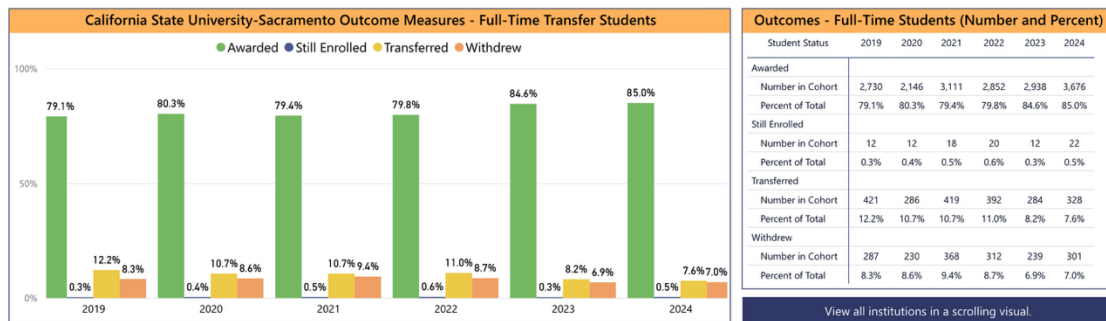
Sacramento State's eight-year outcomes for entering degree- and certificate-seeking students remained relatively stable between 2019 and 2024, with approximately 68–73% of students earning an award within eight years. Institutional performance consistently exceeded national averages and generally aligned with or surpassed WSCUC peer benchmarks. These findings suggest sustained effectiveness in supporting long-term student completion.

Sacramento State and WSCUC Peer Quartile Benchmarks



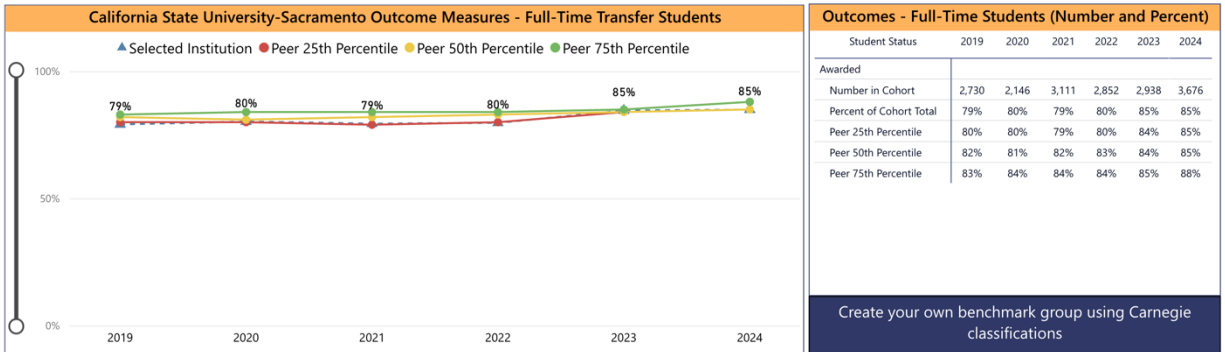
When benchmarked against WSCUC peer institutions, Sacramento State performed near or above the median peer level and approached the upper quartile in recent years. Award attainment increased over time, reaching approximately 73% by 2024. This trend reflects continued progress in student success outcomes relative to comparable institutions.

Eight-Year Outcome Measures Transfer Students Full-Time

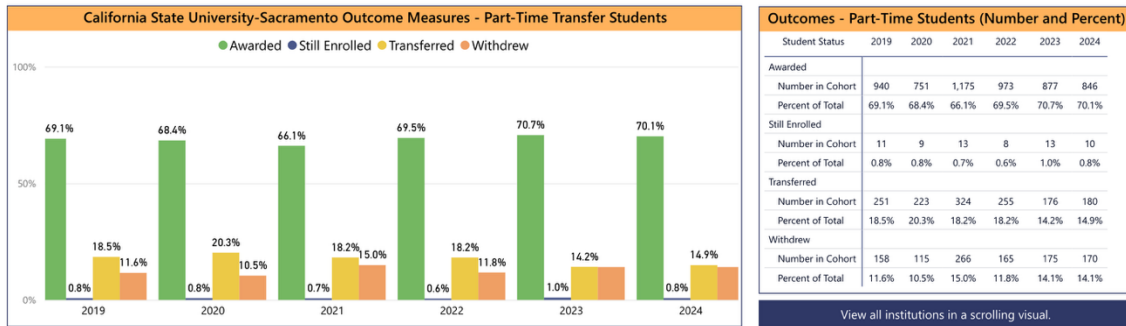


Full-time transfer students demonstrated exceptionally strong outcomes, with more than 80% earning degrees within eight years across most cohorts. Rates increased to approximately 85% by 2024, while withdrawal and transfer-out rates remained comparatively low. These results indicate that Sacramento State effectively supports transfer student persistence and degree completion.

Eight-Year Outcome Measures - Transfer Students Full-Time Sacramento State and WSCUC Peer Quartile Benchmarks

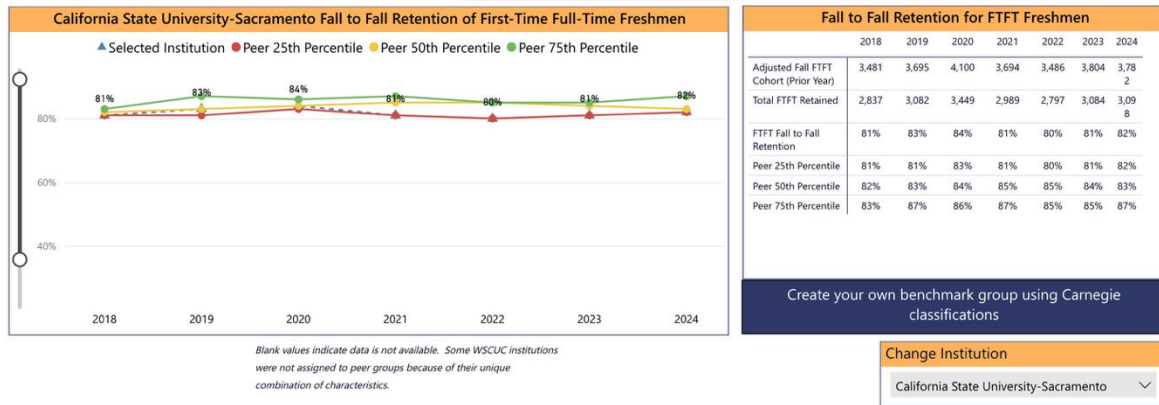


Eight-Year Outcome Measures Transfer Students Part-Time



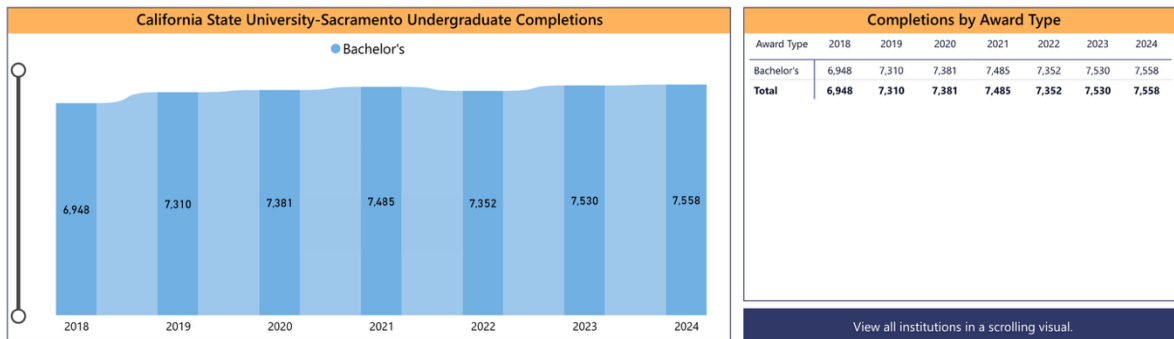
Part-time transfer students achieved award rates ranging from the mid-60% to low-70% range over the period examined. While outcomes were lower than those of full-time transfer students, the majority of students still completed degrees within eight years. The findings suggest continued opportunities to improve support for students balancing academic responsibilities with work and family commitments.

Percent of First-Time Full-Time Freshmen (FTFT) Retained Fall to Fall Sacramento State and WSCUC Peer Quartile Benchmarks



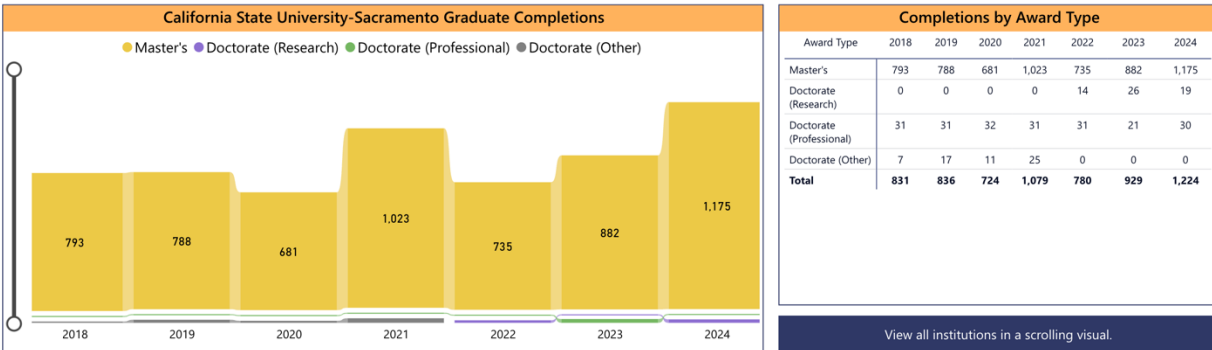
Freshman retention rates remained consistently strong, generally ranging from approximately 80% to 84%. Sacramento State's retention performance was comparable to or slightly above peer and national averages throughout the period. Stable retention rates indicate effective student support services and successful transition experiences for entering students.

Undergraduate Completions Bachelor's



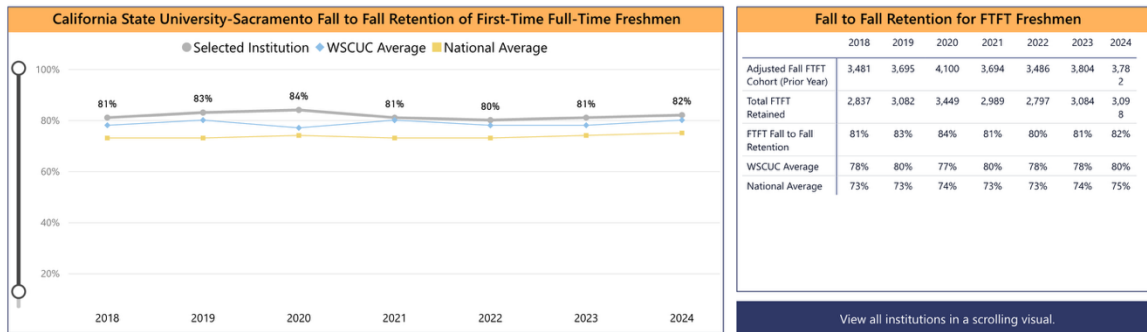
Bachelor's degree production remained strong and relatively stable over the review period, averaging more than 7,000 degrees annually. Despite modest year-to-year fluctuations, overall completion levels demonstrate Sacramento State's continued contribution to workforce and educational attainment goals in the region.

Graduate Completions Master's and Doctoral Degrees



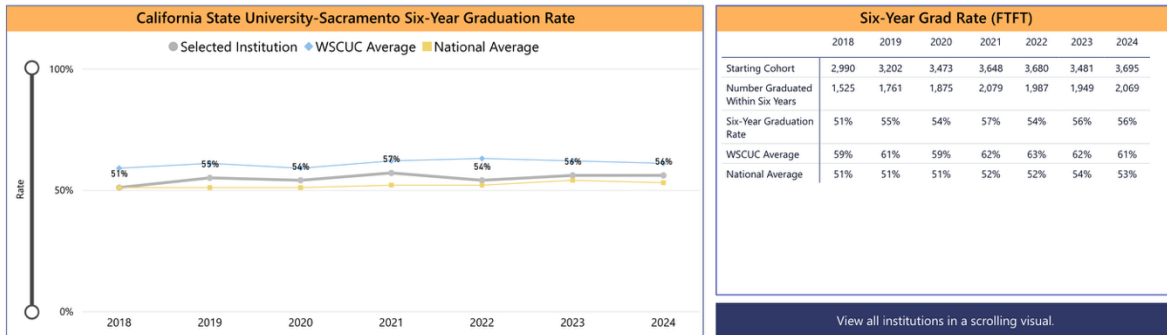
Graduate degree production increased substantially during the review period, particularly at the master's level. Following declines during the pandemic period, graduate completions rebounded and reached their highest levels by 2024. This growth reflects expanding graduate education opportunities and sustained demand for advanced degrees.

Percent of First-Time Full-Time Freshmen (FTFT) Retained Fall to Fall



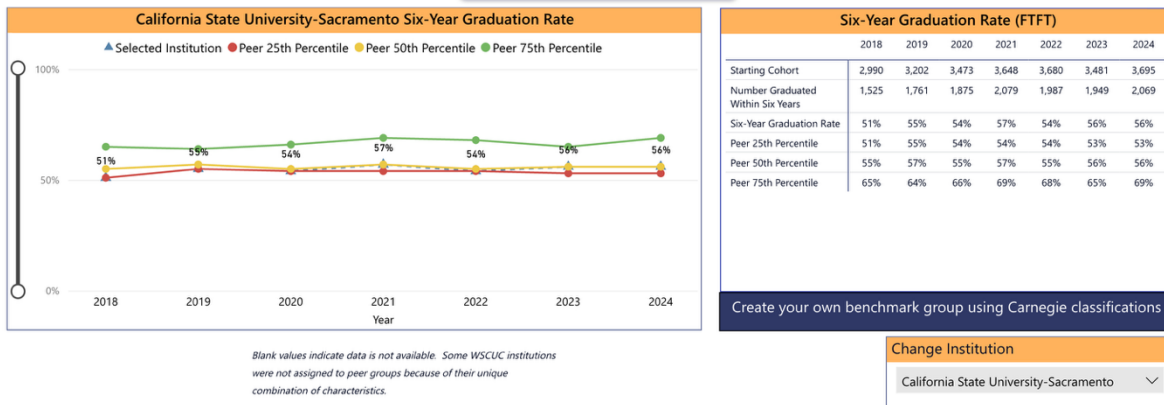
Freshman retention rates remained consistently strong, generally ranging from approximately 80% to 84%. Sacramento State's retention performance was comparable to or slightly above peer and national averages throughout the period. Stable retention rates indicate effective student support services and successful transition experiences for entering students.

Six-Year Graduation Rate for First-Time Full-Time Students (FTFT)



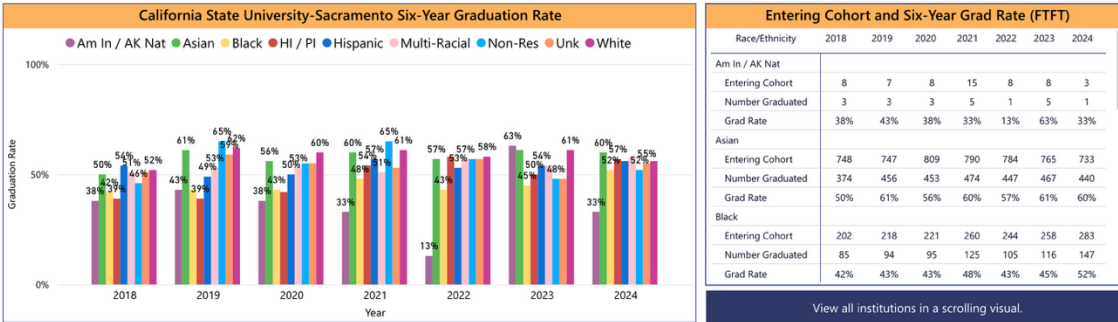
The six-year graduation rate for first-time, full-time students improved over time, rising from approximately 51% to 56%. Sacramento State consistently performed at or above national averages and near the WSCUC peer average. These gains indicate continued progress in supporting students toward timely degree completion. Relative to peer institutions, Sacramento State performed near the median benchmark and remained competitive throughout the review period. Graduation rates improved gradually while maintaining consistency across cohorts. The trend demonstrates sustained institutional effectiveness in promoting student success.

Six-Year IPEDS Graduation Rate for First-Time Full-Time (FTFT) Sacramento State and WSCUC Peer Quartile Benchmarks



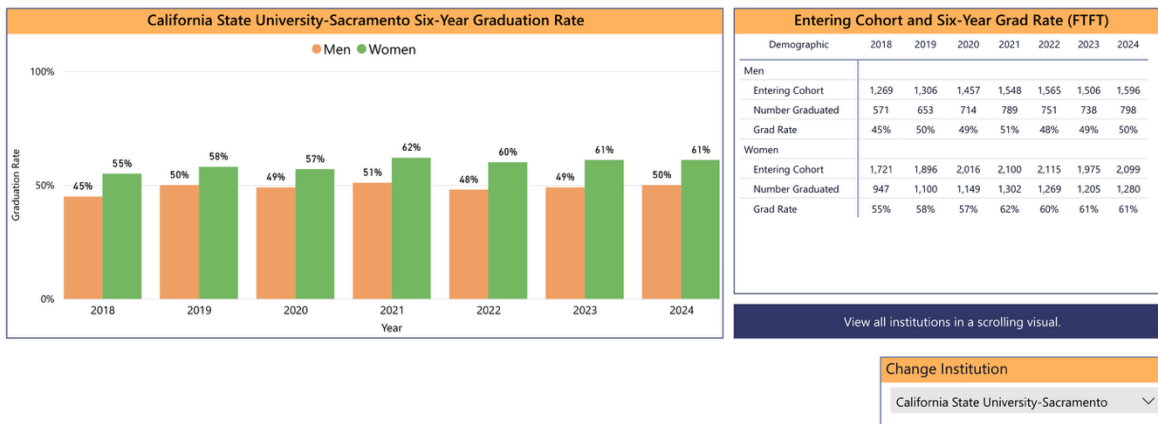
Relative to peer institutions, Sacramento State performed near the median benchmark and remained competitive throughout the review period. Graduation rates improved gradually while maintaining consistency across cohorts. The trend demonstrates sustained institutional effectiveness in promoting student success.

Six-Year Graduation Rate for First-Time Full-Time Students (FTFT) by Race and Ethnicity



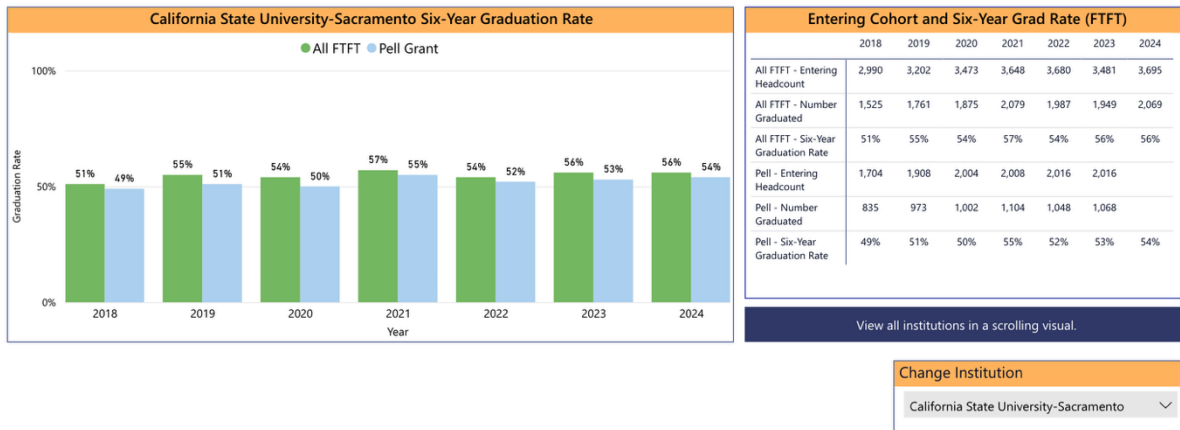
Graduation rates varied across racial and ethnic groups, reflecting broader national patterns in educational attainment. However, most student populations demonstrated stable or improving outcomes over time. Continued institutional efforts to close equity gaps remain important to advancing student success and educational equity.

Six-Year Graduation Rate for First-Time Full-Time Students (FTFT) by Gender



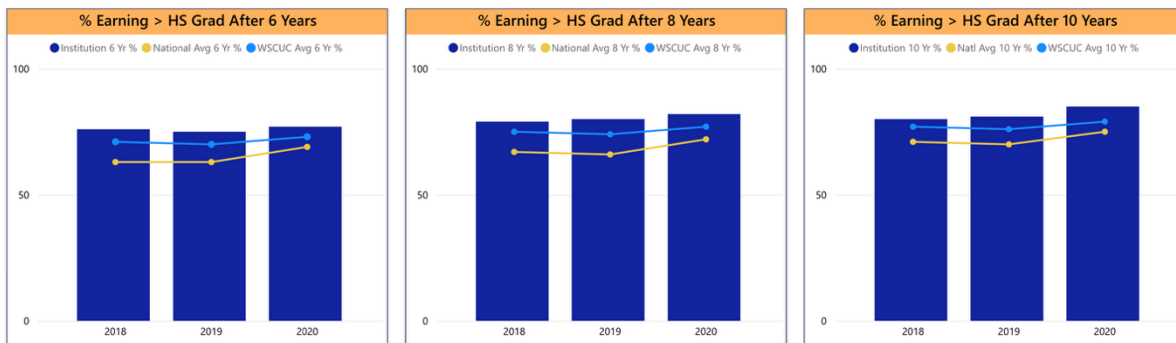
Women consistently graduated at higher rates than men across all cohorts. While both groups demonstrated relatively stable outcomes over time, the gender gap persisted throughout the reporting period. These findings highlight opportunities for targeted interventions that support male student persistence and completion.

Six-Year Graduation Rate for First-Time Full-Time Students (FTFT) Pell Recipients



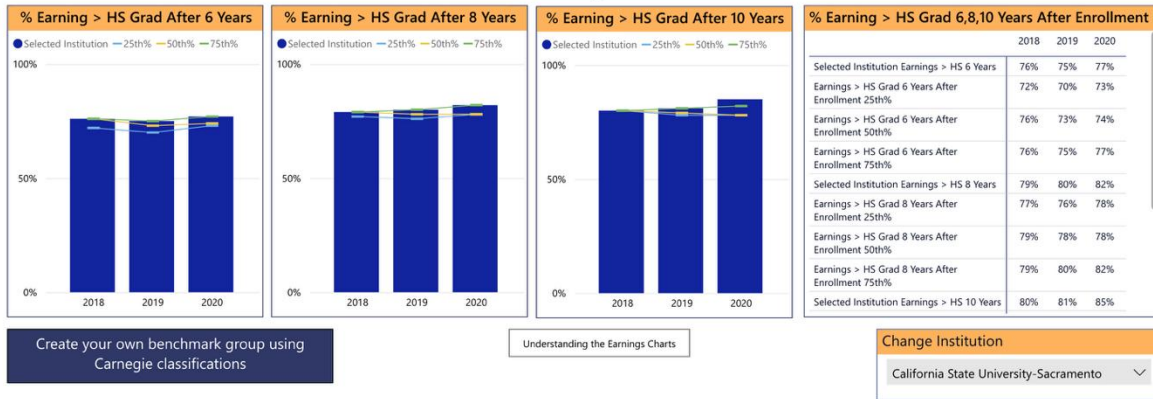
Graduation rates for Pell Grant recipients closely tracked overall institutional graduation rates, although they remained modestly lower. The relatively small differences between Pell recipients and the overall student population suggest that Sacramento State provides meaningful support for economically disadvantaged students.

Undergraduate Earnings Trend



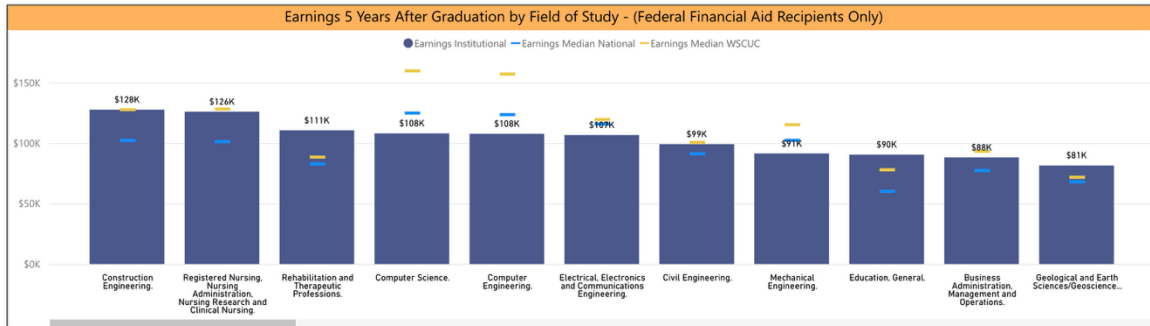
Post-graduation earnings consistently exceeded those of high school graduates at six, eight, and ten years after enrollment. Earnings advantages increased over time, demonstrating the long-term economic value of a Sacramento State degree. Outcomes also compared favorably with peer benchmarks.

Undergraduate Earnings Trend Benchmark Percent of Student Working and Not Enrolled Earning More than a HS Graduate



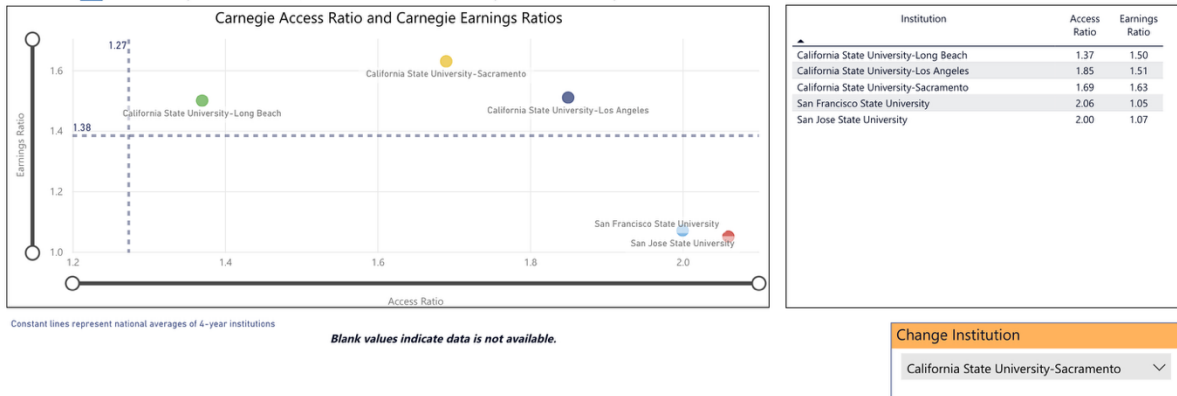
A substantial majority of Sacramento State graduates earned more than high school graduates six, eight, and ten years after enrollment. Institutional performance remained above peer benchmarks and improved slightly over time. These findings underscore the economic mobility associated with degree attainment.

Earnings after Graduation by Field of Study (Federal Financial Aid Recipients Only)



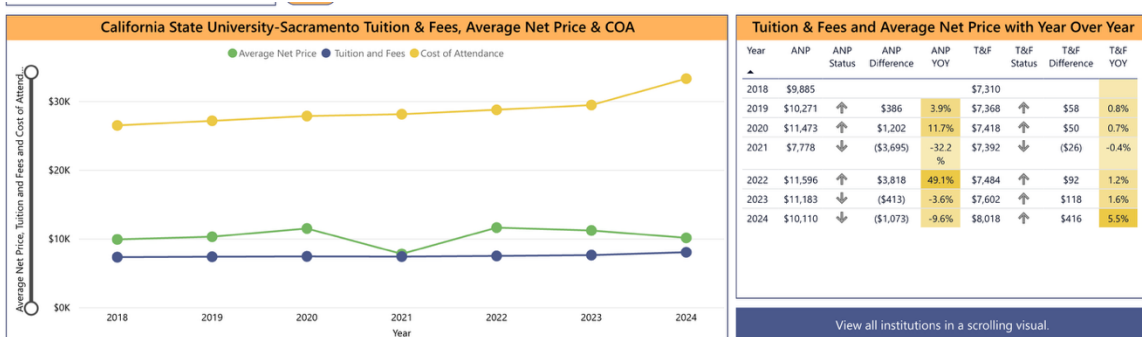
Post-graduation earnings varied by discipline, with engineering, nursing, computer science, and related STEM fields producing the highest median earnings. Nevertheless, graduates across multiple disciplines achieved earnings that compared favorably with national and peer benchmarks. These outcomes demonstrate the broad workforce value of Sacramento State programs.

Carnegie Access to Carnegie Earnings Ratio with WSCUC Peer Group



Sacramento State performed favorably on the Carnegie Access-to-Earnings metric, indicating that the institution provides strong economic outcomes while serving a broad and diverse student population. The institution compares well with peer universities on measures of both access and post-graduation earnings, highlighting its contribution to social mobility.

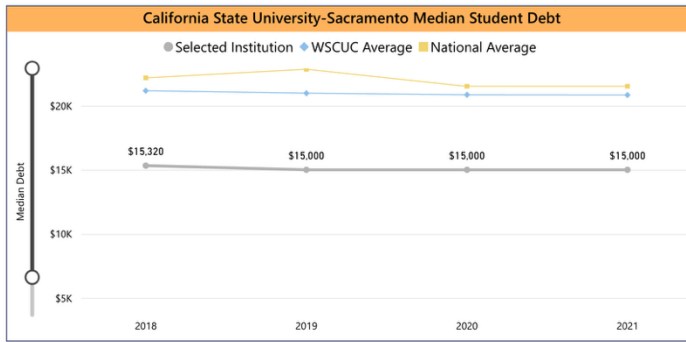
Tuition & Fees, Average Net Price, and Cost of Attendance



Tuition remained relatively stable throughout the review period, while average net price fluctuated modestly. Although total cost of attendance increased over time, Sacramento State continued to maintain affordability compared with many four-year institutions. These trends support the institution's commitment to access and affordability.



Median Student Debt

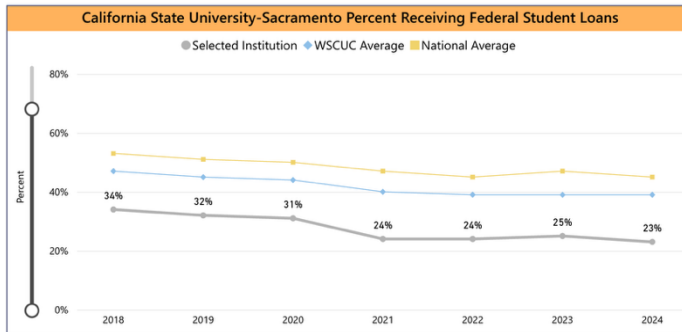


Median Student Debt						
Year	Debt	Status	Difference	Year Over Year	WSCUC Average	National Average
2018	\$15,320				\$21,163	\$22,172
2019	\$15,000	↓	(\$320)	-2.1%	\$20,974	\$22,840
2020	\$15,000	→	\$0	0.0%	\$20,849	\$21,514
2021	\$15,000	→	\$0	0.0%	\$20,828	\$21,514

View all institutions in a scrolling visual.

Median student debt remained low and stable, generally around \$15,000, and below both WSCUC and national averages. These findings suggest that Sacramento State students are able to complete their degrees with comparatively manageable debt burdens.

Percent of All UG Students Receiving Pell Grants



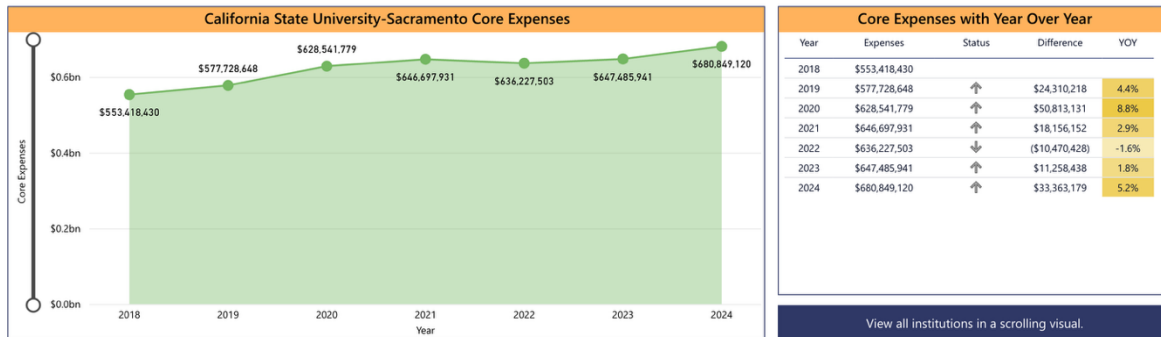
Percent Receiving Federal Student Loans						
Year	Percent	Status	Difference	Year Over Year	WSCUC Average	National Average
2018	34%				47%	53%
2019	32%	↓	-2%	-5.9%	45%	51%
2020	31%	↓	-1%	-3.1%	44%	50%
2021	24%	↓	-7%	-22.6%	40%	47%
2022	24%	→	0%	0.0%	39%	45%
2023	25%	↑	1%	4.2%	39%	47%
2024	23%	↓	-2%	-8.0%	39%	45%

View all institutions in a scrolling visual.

The percentage of undergraduates receiving Pell Grants remained substantial, reflecting Sacramento State's role in serving economically diverse students. The institution continues to provide access to higher education for students with significant financial need while maintaining positive student outcomes.

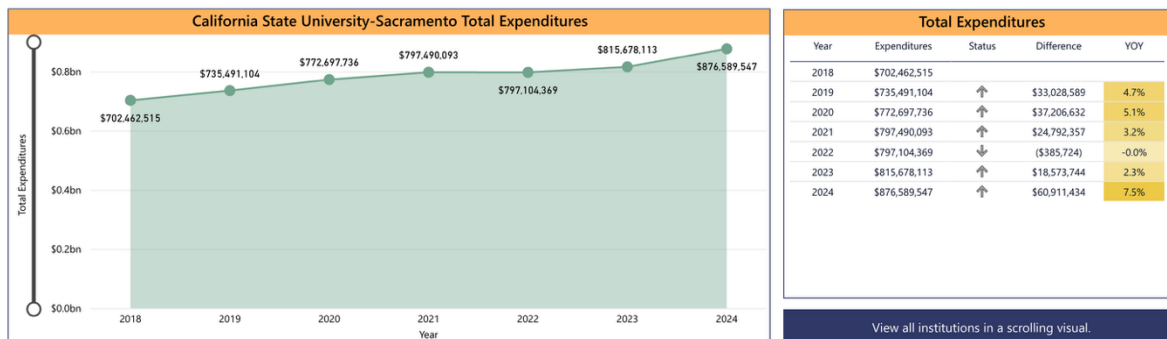


Sacramento State Core Expenses



Institutional core expenses increased steadily over the review period, reflecting investments in academic programs, student support services, and operational needs. Despite fluctuations in enrollment and external economic conditions, the university maintained a consistent commitment to supporting student success initiatives.

Sacramento State Total Expenditures



Total expenditures increased over time, indicating continued institutional investment in operations, instruction, student services, and infrastructure. The overall trend suggests financial stability and an ongoing commitment to advancing the university's educational mission.

