They are nearing the end of their educational journey...

**Listening to Seniors**

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“I felt like I was slightly behind being 23 & taking me longer @ a community college. 
However, I’m entering my senior year and feel right on track now!”
—23, female, Caucasian, transfer student

“So far my experiences here are good. This is my first semester and I just became a senior. If I had the time I would definitely like to be more involved in activities and just become a more active student.”
—Hispanic/Female/30/Transfer Student/Parent

“I feel welcomed and comfortable but since I transferred last year from a community college I have found it difficult to be involved in school activities/clubs.
It is mostly a commuter school so it’s hard to stick around campus when you don’t have classes. This makes it harder to make friends and join extracurriculars.”
—Female/22/Latina/transfer student/senior

“Sac State community is awesome!”
—Asian American Senior

“I’m not very involved at school because I’m just trying to finish my degree. Being a student as me is tedious because I don’t think college does a proper job for preparing students for the real world.
CSUS is a great school for ‘commuters.’ College is what you make of it. It’s been great to me.”
—White Female 25 Senior Fully Employed

“I have had a fairly normal experience at Sac State. Come to school, get work done and leave.
Sac State’s education has taken me away from one major for the better.
Sac State has allowed me to get more involved on campus if I wanted to.”
—white male, 23, senior, athletic

“It’s a hard balance between work and school. Time management is a big issue when you become a senior with many senior group projects, working with students who don’t have a job.
(I like) The tutor resources that we have. It helps so much to have free tutors on campus that are available with my crazy schedule.
(I don’t like) Hybrid classes (teachers don’t give a set schedule on when is online and when is inperson)”
—Female, Senior, full time work, full time student
“I feel Sac State is very diverse and I’ve enjoyed my experience here. I like how there are many clubs/organizations with diverse backgrounds.

I like the online platform Sac CT and how professors utilize it to give students more resources to learn.

I have only had one class where I did not like the style/design of the class mostly because of disorganization from the instructor.”

—hispanic, age 29, senior

“Being a senior, I’ve experienced a lot.”

—Male, 25, Japanese, Senior

“Of course I can not compare my experience so far to anything else because this is all I’ve ever known. But so far my experience has been fairly laid back or easy. I’ve had to work my way through college while maintaining full-time status.”

—Caucasian, first generation college, senior, 23, male

“I enjoyed my experience.”

—White, male, 25, Straight, Single, Senior at CSUS, Christian, Athlete

“(I like) How at Sac State students have the opportunity to explore a lot of different things and options.

Everything I have done here has benefitted me in some way.”

—22, white, senior, mass coms major, female

“After learning about all the things that CSUS provides for its students, it is disheartening seeing other students who are uninformed.

I would like to promote being involved on campus and for students to study abroad if they can.”

—Male, 23, Pacific Islander, Straight, Senior

“Very open, helpful…department…I enjoyed my experience.

Intramural activities at the Well has been my best experience. Very diverse and fun.”

—White, male, 25, Straight, Single, Senior at CSUS, Christian, Athlete

“Most professors are friendly but there are a few who do not care.”

—Latina female age 22 (senior)

“I have experienced many well-educated teachers who have turned courses I thought I would hate into courses I recommend to my friends.”

—Mexican-american; student-athlete; senior
“I feel like I blend in with everyone else. I enjoy the variety of ethnic clubs at this school as well.”

—mixed-race, 22 years old, senior (grade)

“My perspective is a little rushed, that even though I have been in college for 5 years, it just wasn’t enough time. I would like to have spent more time at Sac State because I spent 3 years in Junior College.

The dynamic campus. There is always some group of people trying to make some kind of difference on campus. And it seems like every semester I come back and see something different on campus.”

—a fifth year senior

“Being a student, a female as well as African American, (my experience) is typical of any college student that works full time and goes to school. It is hard but manageable.”

—Female African American 26, Senior

“I am the oldest and my parents immigrated here 25 years ago. I did not have any older siblings to tell me how to do little things. I did not have anyone to seek advice from. The …office here is a joke. Nobody was open to help. So I really had to struggle to get through it.”

—a female, graduating in Dec. First generation graduating from college in America.

“(I like) e-mail communication, online access and use of SacCT. (I don’t like) huge variance of teacher grading/structure.”

—23, white, senior

“I’m not a new student and therefore am able to take advantage of the services provided by the school.”

—22, Female Senior Student

“I have met a lot of great people & connected well with other classes and the professors were helpful”

—senior, Caucasian, age 22, male

“Frustrating because I have my own personal pressures about wanting to graduate and yes it has taken me a long time to actually decide what my major is, but on top of my own pressures I feel this university is just trying to push me out and not helping me graduate. I say this mostly because my financial aid was revoked for having too many units. Despite my income, despite my high GPA and trend of progress since I transferred here and despite the fact that the majority of my units are from a junior college, CSUS won’t even let me get student loans anymore (unless they are private). Just a bunch of BS.”

—a white super senior
“Personally, it’s stressful because I know that the ‘real world’ is going to be more difficult than being a student (and that’s a challenge in itself). From talking w/ recent grads, I know that it’s going to be difficult finding a job. I also feel that I didn’t receive an education equal to the amount of debt I’m in. I wish Sac State challenged me more like private schools do. After 5 years in school, I don’t feel prepared for life after college in many aspects.

I enjoyed my time in Greek life while it lasted (3 years). However, with the fees and little time due to the fact that I work 30+ hours/week, sorority wasn’t an option anymore. I also studied abroad in England for 5 months which is the best choice I have made since being at Sac State.

I’m happy I was apart of the honors program. The professors in the honors program were the only professors I’ve had that truly wanted to push me to be the best I can be.

Too many students and not enough professors. Because of this, professors didn’t take the time to develop a relationship but rather just did their job to put food on the table.”

—23 years old, 5th year senior, full time worker & student

“It is getting hard to stay focused/motivated. I don’t have a lot of free time

Being on the 5 year plan has allowed me to work full-time and support myself”

—23 yrs old, 5th year graduating senior.

“The courses I have taken have all been wonderful & informative!”

—22, Filipino-American, Senior

“For this last semester specifically, I’d say it’s like the light at the end of the tunnel.

Most of the teachers are pretty good, and the campus is nice.”

—White, 24, Male, Senior

“I am a senior. I have had a great experience here at CSUS. It has been very positive.”

—Asian Indian (east Indian/Punjabi) 23 years old female

“It is hard for an African American student to be successful on this campus.

I do not like this school and I cannot wait to graduate.”

—Black Female Senior

“I spent 2 years at CSUS (will be 7 semesters total) and will graduate in Fall. The head chairman of my department was extremely helpful in helping me graduate on time.”

—Filipino, 23, Female

“I feel pretty well-attended to as well as educated…. Professors (mostly) care about your success. Amazing school.”

—24, Caucasian, senior

“I feel like a college student waiting to graduate”

—female, caucasian, senior
Seniors

The Sacramento State University Fact Book Fall 2015 reports there were 10,631 seniors of the 27,641 total undergraduate students enrolled in Fall 2015, 38.5% of undergraduate students.

They are in the home stretch, likely feeling ready to get out and excited to graduate. As faculty and staff, we can help seniors to complete their last year smoothly and maximize their remaining time by making sure they understand the process toward graduation and the steps they may take to better prepare for their futures. Below are some of the key tasks of seniors at Sacramento State:

Completing Coursework

Seniors have 90-120 units earned at this grade level, and want to stay on track with all courses left to complete to satisfy the requirements for their major field of study and GE. Students can track their progress and do a final check by going to the Academic Requirements tab on My Sac State (available to them as soon as they register), which provides students with an electronic version of their general education and major requirements. Students with questions regarding GE should seek assistance at the Academic Advising Center and those with questions regarding the major should discuss the matter with an advisor within their department.

Preparing for Graduation

Students may file their petition to graduate one year prior to graduation and at 85 units or more. Deadlines for applying to graduate are February 1 (for graduation in the upcoming Fall Semester) and October 1 (for graduation in the upcoming Spring/Summer Semester). The Office of the University Registrar provides the following webpages for students wishing to apply for graduation:

   “Bachelor’s Degree Graduation Requirements Checklist”:  csus.edu/registrar/forms/DegreeEval/bachelorcheklistnew
   “Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about Applying to Graduate Online”:  csus.edu/registrar/Graduation/graduate_online

Once the application has been submitted, the student will be notified of next steps in the process. Students with questions in this regard or in need of further information about preparing for graduation may refer to:

The University Registrar’s Degree Evaluations Office—
Reviews the courses completed by a student to determine the official status of the student’s progress toward graduation. Students may call or come by during the drop-in hours posted on the website, or refer to the website for further information regarding: fulfilling Bachelor’s degree and GE/Graduation requirements, steps and forms for applying to graduate, and reminders for graduating seniors.

   Location: Lassen 2000  Phone: (916) 278-3901
   Website: csus.edu/registrar/Graduation
Students may also find the following campus resources helpful for further information or assistance in the graduation process:

**College Success Workshops**—
Offer one to two hour workshops on various helpful topics that include “Tips and Tricks to a Successful Graduation” and “Graduation.” The schedule is posted on the website.  
Website: [csus.edu/acad/assets/pdf/s16%20college%20success%20workshops%203](http://csus.edu/acad/assets/pdf/s16%20college%20success%20workshops%203)

**The Graduation Channel**—
Offers online reminders to students with 70 units or more about important “next steps” to degree attainment, including: notices of upcoming graduation preparation workshops, steps on what to do after applying for graduation, receipt of priority registration after submitting the application for graduation, information about important fees and commitments to fulfill prior to graduating, and updates regarding Graduation Fest, an event aimed to help students prepare for commencement and life beyond graduation.  
Website: [csus.edu/GraduationChannel](http://csus.edu/GraduationChannel)

**University Advancement “Commencement” Website**—
Provides information regarding preparing for graduation, graduation tips, answers to frequently asked questions about the commencement ceremony, and the guide described below.  
Website: [csus.edu/commencement/](http://csus.edu/commencement/)

**Pre-Commencement Guide**—
Provides information about Spring 2016 Commencement, including schedule, policies, steps to take, and answers to frequently asked questions about the commencement ceremony.  
Website: [csus.edu/gradstudies/forms/graduation_diploma_forms/2016precommencement.pdf](http://csus.edu/gradstudies/forms/graduation_diploma_forms/2016precommencement.pdf)

**Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Student Shop**—
Sells graduation caps, gowns, tassels, and more. Students may come into the store or purchase online.  
Location: University Union, Third Floor  
Phone: (916) 278-7916  
Website: [asi.csus.edu/services/student-shop/products/](http://asi.csus.edu/services/student-shop/products/)

**A Quick Note about Graduation and Commencement**

“Graduation” refers to the date in which the undergraduate degree was officially conferred, while the term “commencement” refers to the graduation ceremony held for students. Students sometimes view the two terms as synonymous, and, consequently, think they cannot participate in commencement if the requirements for graduation are not met.

Please note that students may still “walk the stage” when they are short a class or so or if they missed the deadline to apply for graduation. Their graduation date will state the day that all requirements were successfully completed, but they may still celebrate with their peers in commencement.
Readying Themselves for Life after Undergraduate Degree Achievement

Seniors can better position themselves for a successful future by exploring the many opportunities on campus available to them in the areas of:

1. Internships and volunteerism to gain greater work experience,
2. Career Center resources to hone job search skills and obtain employment, and
3. Graduate School information to consider going further in their educational journey.

Internships and Volunteer Work

Seniors should take advantage as much as possible of internships and volunteer work in order to get a taste of what certain careers are like, gain work experience and skills, build connections, and develop professionalism and confidence in the working world. Internships may be full- or part-time, on or off campus, for academic units or not, and paid or unpaid.

Students can drop in to the Career Center to learn more about internship opportunities or volunteer work from a counselor, or visit the Career Center’s webpage on “Internships and Volunteerism” (link provided below) or use the Hornet Career Connection (described further down). A schedule of events is also posted there on the Career Center website, including those for “Internship Awareness Week” in April.

Career Center—
Offers career counseling on a drop-in basis for students to get help with finding and applying for internships and volunteer work, as well as assistance with job search and more.

Location: Lassen Hall 1013    Phone: (916) 278-6231
Website for Career Center: csus.edu/careercenter
Website for Career Counseling: csus.edu/careercenter/students/Career%20Counseling
Website for Internships and Volunteer Work:
http://www.csus.edu/careercenter/students/Internships-Volunteerism/index.html

Hornet Career Connection Online Job Board—
Provides an online job board for students to post their resume and search for internships, volunteer work, and co-operative education positions, as well as full- or part-time jobs.
Website: csus.edu/careercenter/students/Career%20Connection

Students may also check the many campus programs and organizations for internships and volunteer opportunities, or with their department, the majority of which house an internship program for the major or field of study. The Career Center also provides a list of academic department contacts for internships at:

csus.edu/careercenter/students/Internships-Volunteerism/supporting-docs-and-pdfs/department-contacts.pdf
Career Search and Preparation

Seniors can better position themselves for the workforce and obtain employment by utilizing the Career Center.

Career Center—
Provides students with the many services and resources described below for career search and job hunting. Students may drop-in to get started or get questions answered regarding finding employment at any point in the process.

- **Location:** Lassen Hall 1013
- **Website:** [csus.edu/careercenter](http://csus.edu/careercenter)
- **Phone:** (916) 278-6231

Career Counseling—
Offers individual career counseling on a drop-in basis for students to get help with: locking down specific career options within a major, discussing informational interviewing or job shadowing as a way to learn more about careers, developing an action plan to pursue work, writing and critiquing cover letters and resumes, learning job search strategies and networking tips, practicing for successful interviews, networking with professionals in the student’s field of interest, overcoming obstacles to achieve career goals, obtaining information about job opportunities on and off campus, and so much more.

- **Website:** [csus.edu/careercenter/students/Career%20Counseling](http://csus.edu/careercenter/students/Career%20Counseling)

Career Resources Website—
Provides numerous links to valuable information on job search and internships, resume and cover letter writing, interviewing and networking, career fairs, and other handouts on employment search strategies and resources.

- **Website:** [csus.edu/careercenter/students/Resources](http://csus.edu/careercenter/students/Resources)

Hornet Career Connection Online Job Board—
Provides an online job board for students to post their resume and search for full-time or part-time jobs, on-campus employment, and internships and co-operative education positions that are paid. Students will also receive e-mails describing positions that match their search criteria and have access to the Career Center’s calendar of upcoming events, workshops, and information sessions to provide further information on job search, interviewing, and networking strategies.

- **Website:** [csus.edu/careercenter/students/Career%20Connection](http://csus.edu/careercenter/students/Career%20Connection)

Career Fairs—
Provide students with the opportunity to learn more about the various organizations that come to campus to talk with students and share information regarding their workplace, criteria for potential hires, and interview possibilities. The dates, along with further information, may be found on the Career Center website below.

- **Website:** [csus.edu/careercenter](http://csus.edu/careercenter)

On-Campus Recruitment—
Offers students a process for learning about, and then effectively participating in, on-campus recruitment interviews with organizations for employment or internships.

- **Website:** [csus.edu/careercenter/students/on%20campus%20recruitment](http://csus.edu/careercenter/students/on%20campus%20recruitment)
Graduate School

Seniors may want to pursue higher degree attainment and postgraduate work to immerse themselves further in their field of study. The following resources will be helpful in this regard:

**Office of Graduate Studies**—
Offers information regarding policies and procedures for applying to and attending Graduate School, coordinates admissions, and assists students through their graduate programs on campus.

Location: River Front Center 215  
Phone: (916) 278-6470
Website: csus.edu/gradstudies

**Graduate Diversity Program**—
Provides assistance in the form of financial, academic, and community support to disadvantaged and underrepresented students who want to pursue graduate level work. The Graduate Diversity Program also offers the Pre-Graduate Workshops described below.

Location: Riverfront Center 203  
Phone: (916) 278-3834
Website: csus.edu/graddiv

**Pre-Graduate Workshops**—
Offers students the informational workshops listed below.

Website: csus.edu/graddiv/Pre-GraduateWorkshops

- “How to Be In It to Win It: Steps to Follow as an Undergraduate that Will Help You Become a Successful Graduate School Applicant”
- “Why Attend Graduate School: Choosing a Graduate Program & Everything You Need to Know about Graduate School”
- “How to Apply to Graduate School: Deadlines, Requirements, & Writing a Personal Statement”
- “Financing Graduate Education: Attending Graduate School Free, Grants & Scholarships, Financial Aid Information”
- “So You Think You Want a Ph.D.? Going from an Undergraduate to the Ph.D.: Requirements & Resources Available”
- “GRE Preparation: Quantitative Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning”

**College Success Workshops**—
Offer one to two hour workshops on various topics, including “Better Understanding of the Grad School Process.” The schedule may be found at the website below.

Website: csus.edu/acad/assets/pdf/s16%20college%20success%20workshops%203.pdf

**Career Center**—
Offers counseling on a drop-in basis for students to get help with graduate school applications and provides information on preparing a personal statement.

Location: Lassen Hall 1013  
Phone: (916) 278-6231
Website for Career Counseling: csus.edu/careercenter
Website for Personal Statements: csus.edu/careercenter/students/Career%20Counseling/career%20library
The *Graduating Student Survey Report Spring 2015* by the Office of Institutional Research reports the following, with regard to Sacramento State’s seniors last year:

*What they do while they’re here…*

According to student survey respondents,

With regard to their classes:

- 56.8% frequently contributed to class discussions,
- 63.0% frequently discussed course content with students outside of class,
- 53.5% frequently used the library for research or homework,
- 67.2% frequently made a presentation in class,
- 44.3% frequently worked on independent study projects,
- 46.5% frequently studied with other students,
- 18.6% frequently performed community service as part of a class,
- 55.4% frequently worked with classmates on group projects during class, and
- 52.2% frequently did so outside of class.

- 6.6% frequently missed class due to employment, and
- 8.0% frequently missed class for other reasons.
- 29.5% frequently had difficulty getting the courses they need.

With regard to their instructors:

- 37.0% frequently communicated regularly with their professors,
- 32.5% frequently asked a professor for advice after class,
- 9.1% frequently worked on a professor’s research project, and
- 2.9% frequently have been a guest in a professor’s home.

With regard to not-so-great-moments:

- 7.2% frequently came to class late,
- 23.9% frequently have been bored in class,
- 4.7% frequently failed to complete homework on time, and
- 6.1% frequently fell asleep in class.

*What they think of faculty and staff…*

- 79.1% of the survey respondents reported that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the amount of contact with faculty.
- 78.8% strongly agree or agree that faculty here are interested in students’ academic problems, and
- 44.9% strongly agree or agree that faculty here are interested in students’ personal problems.
- 68.1% strongly agree or agree that staff here are interested in students’ academic problems, and
- 39.1% strongly agree or agree that faculty here are interested in students’ personal problems (39.1%).
What they think about their education...

85.0% of the survey respondents reported that they strongly agree or agree that if asked, they would recommend this college to others.

77.3% said they were very satisfied or satisfied with general education and core curriculum courses, and 82.7% were very satisfied or satisfied with courses in their major field.

71.8% were very satisfied or satisfied with the relevance of coursework to everyday life, and 74.9% relevance to future career plans.

80.8% were very satisfied or satisfied with the overall quality of instruction, 83.1% were very satisfied or satisfied with overall academic experience, and 82.2% were very satisfied or satisfied with overall college experience.