

They are at the end of their educational journey here...

***Listening to
Graduating Students***

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Listening to Graduating Students...

“It is stressful being a graduating senior in the Winter/Fall semester because trying to line up a job, making sure you pass your classes and the holidays coming up it’s a lot to take it and organize.

The fact that I wasn’t involved in school as much as I wish I could be now is (something) I want to share.

Teachers for the most part are awesome.”
—a Graduating Senior

“I am a December graduate! I am so glad to be done! Best gift to me ever!”
—Almost done

“Stressful yet calming. I find I do much better and enjoy my time here most in the fall. This time of my life is very stressful w/ graduation coming up in May. I don’t know what I even want to do. So hopefully I do something that is relevant and pays like I went to college.

Don’t give up on feeling connected. I have bonded w/ 3 professors (Dr.s) most that I never took but just popped into their offices during stressful times (registering).

Like most schools, you get out what you put in so this last year has meant a ton to me.”
—22 yrs old Female ADHD MDBP Org Coms Major White but w/ giant ethnic hair

“Go out and utilize all the resources that are available and provided by the school. That can really make a difference in one’s education.”
—American born chinese (21 years old) female graduating senior spring

“Many people are in the same boat as me.”
—male/graduating Sr/hoping for grad school

“Where did the time go? All of a sudden it is your last semester, and you just can’t believe it.”
—graduating this May

“Coming back to school is a privilege and a challenge. Returning to school has allowed me to pursue degree and further my education.

I am close to graduating from school.”
—Returning to School, Parent, Male

“I would have liked to have graduated at 21 years old, last semester but I am learning there are more students in my situation struggling to get classes and push back graduation.

I was in a sorority and it has definitely been the most influential/best part of my CSUS experience.”

—Mexican/Sicilian, Female, 22 years old, Graduating Senior

“I like mostly everything here.”

—Mexican/female/23 yrs/graduating senior/straight

“The school needs more job placement. Many people pay a lot of \$ to go to school, but graduate with no idea how to get a job.”

—Graduating Senior, Returning Student, GLBT, Male, 37

“I’ve seen a lot of stuff on this campus that I would not see anywhere else or have the same experiences again.

Meeting new people is huge on campus. It makes your college experience so much better.

Use school resources, they actually help.

(I like) Putting studying ahead of partying. Study now to have time to party later (work smarter, not harder).

(I don’t like) People knowing what’s best for you when only you know what’s best for yourself.”

—23, Graduating Senior – 4 ½ yrs.

“typical, ordinary (experience) ... great professors”

—white female 23 graduating Sr.

“Being 21 & graduating puts me years ahead – most of my peers are 5 years older. I feel like an outsider for not squandering my early 20s.

I wish the teachers & the students were more motivated rather than having an apathetic attitude about education and work.”

—Caucasian, Female, 21

“Being a senior, it seemed like time has flown by. I will miss my favorite part of coming back to school is the first two weeks when everyone has their booth in the quad.

I like the diversity at CSUS. I also really enjoy the different types of services, like the math center or writing center. There are helpful things for students to get by.”

—about to graduate with a Coms studies degree

“Being an ‘older’ student I feel my perspective is unique. I chose not to get involved in groups, clubs, friends, etc., so I could focus on graduating and my education. Now that I am graduating my mindset is focused, determined and geared toward that goal.

I came to CSUS ready to graduate and focus on my education. My teachers/professors were mostly enjoyable and contributed to my success. While I didn’t care about getting to know my peers, I connected with a few of my professors. These connections contributed to my growth as a student and person.

I like the environment here. I feel like you have an option to get involved or to just come in, do your work, and go home. The majority of the professors genuinely care for their students and sharing their knowledge.”

—commuter student, female, has been in college for 6 years.

“I enjoy the campus + its resources available”

—white, female, 22 years old, graduating.

“Its great, but lack participation in any on campus events because I’m ready to leave.

Getting involved w/ a sorority & club was the best thing I could have done for my education.

(My) Program is great! Really sets you up for success & life after graduation.”

—Graduating college

“It has not been either severely difficult or very easy. I’ve fought battles for classes and tried to figure out what I need to graduate on my own but I always seem to get what I need.”

—white, female, 23, straight, almost done with college

“It is hard!! I don’t have any professors that have the same skin color as me. Many professors do not understand the life of a low income/first generation student.

Faculty diversity would be much appreciated!! I will be pursuing a masters degree in higher education & leadership policy, so I can one day make a change.”

—Latino, 23, Graduating Senior

“I have learned so many things, skills, ways of thinking. I have made friends with students, faculty and staff. I feel like this is my home. It will be hard when I leave.

I feel that Sac State has prepared me well for the future.”

—Female, Filipino, 23 years old, graduating senior

“Overall, I really like Sac State. I really, really do.”

—21, female, graduating senior, Asian, legally blind—no night vision, tunnel vision, 5%

“It is stressful considering all of my classes are now upper division w/more courseload.

Classes get increasingly more tough and the workload gets more heavy. I would suggest saving GE classes for your Junior/Senior year to ease off the workload. Taking all major upper divs is tiresome.

(What has worked) Studying in groups, better note-taking, reviewing notes more often.”
—almost a graduate.

“An honor to be graduating after so many falls throughout my life.

(I like) Getting to enjoy my class in my last year. The subjects and professor I became fond of.”

—A Senior

“As a first year it was difficult to find my niche (i.e. pple who looked like me on campus)

Now, as a graduating senior I am more appreciative of the diversity on campus, I am constantly aware and receptive to different cultures.

--Don't be afraid to go to events/activities by yourself. Often friends 'shy' friends may be too nervous to attend events w/o a buddy. If I was really interested in something...I went alone if no one wanted to come.

--GET INVOLVED!!!

--Learning what type of learner I am (visual, auditory) saved me time and energy.

I had a hard time saying 'NO!' I wanted to be in every club possible. I quickly learned that moderation is key. Academics come 1st. Extracurriculars, multiple jobs, etc. ALL come after school work.”

—african-american female

“For being here for 6 years, about to graduate and have been actively involved on campus, I have had a great time.”

—Male, 27 years. 6 years at Sac State. Asian/White

“Upon graduating I want the most 'real work' experience or knowledge possible. When I step into the workplace I want to be looked at as a veteran not a rookie.

Great teachers who really think outside the box in preparing you for the outside world.

(I like) Getting along and building a relationship with my professors, networking with students who share similar goals.

(I don't like) Some students who do not take their education goals seriously, yet you have to work with them in a group.”

—Male, 21, Graduating Spring

“I feel a little old, but I will be graduating soon so I am just trying to enjoy my time here.

I wish there was more community. More events that are not particularly mandatory, but aim to bring schools together, outside of fraternity and sorority events.

Spending more time on campus to work on homework and projects has brought opportunity.”

—Male, 23, Transfer

“I wish I would have ‘stopped to smell the roses’ like they say. I didn’t need to stress as much as I did, and there are times that I was working hard or late or stressed that I know helped me to grow as a person.”

—26, almost across the graduation finish line

“This has been a good university that has taught me a lot about life and what I want to do in the future.”

—22 year old male senior who is graduating soon

“Knowing that I will be walking across the stage in just a few weeks is incredibly thrilling. While I am nervous for the future I am thankful to have had an amazing college experience.

I like the facilities that are offered to students at CSUS. I love the campus and wish I spent more time on campus when I first transferred.

Because it is a commuter school, it wasn’t until my last few semesters that I really gain school spirit.”

—Graduating

“I love this campus. I don’t want to leave it. There are too many good things to list.”

—24, female, graduating senior, have been here six years, I have ADD and low vision

“Overall, my experience at Sac State has been great. I’m graduating next week & couldn’t be happier.”

—Female, 22 yrs old, hispanic/caucasian

“I have had the time of my life here. I am better for it. I feel ready to take on the future.”

—graduating senior, 25, employed

“There have been times that were extremely tough. Times when I wanted to quit. When all I wanted to do was sleep. When I didn’t have time to eat or just breathe.

But it has been incredible and worth it. I will walk across that stage with pride.

Thank you Sac State.”

—25, graduating

Graduating Students

Since the start of this decade, about 6,500 students graduate from Sacramento State University each year on average, based on the last *Sacramento State University Fact Book* (Fall 2016) numbers.

If this year's graduating class is anything like the year prior, then we might expect responses similar to those below, from last year's graduating seniors, as found in the last Office of Institutional Research (OIR) *Graduating Student Survey Report* (Spring 2016).

What They Got from Their Professors...

Graduating seniors at Sacramento State noted that their professors provided:

Encouragement to pursue graduate/professional study:
frequently (49.8%) or occasionally (38.2%)

Opportunity to work on a research project:
frequently (26.2%) or occasionally (35.2%)

Advice and guidance about their educational program:
frequently (42.9%) or occasionally (46.0%)

Emotional support and encouragement:
frequently (33.8%) or occasionally (44.7%)

A letter of recommendation:
frequently (28.9%) or occasionally (32.6%)

Honest feedback about their skills and abilities:
frequently (45.0%) or occasionally (44.1%)

Help to improve their study skills:
frequently (38.7%) or occasionally (44.3%)

Feedback on their academic work (outside of grades):
frequently (41.1%) or occasionally (43.2%)

Intellectual challenge and stimulation:
frequently (53.6%) or occasionally (38.0%)

An opportunity to discuss coursework outside of class:
frequently (52.3%) or occasionally (40.1%)

Help in achieving their professional goals:
frequently (39.1%) or occasionally (44.2%)

An opportunity to apply classroom learning to "real-life" issues:
frequently (46.6%) or occasionally (44.4%)

An opportunity to publish:
frequently (13.1%) or occasionally (20.2%)

What They Learned...

Percentage of graduating seniors who felt the areas listed below were “a major strength” or something in which they were “somewhat strong:”

- 87.5% general knowledge
- 89.6% knowledge of a field or discipline
- 70.2% understanding of the problems facing your community
- 58.5% understanding of national issues
- 54.5% understanding of global issues
- 86.1% critical thinking skills
- 88.1% problem-solving skills
- 78.9% leadership abilities
- 81.3% interpersonal skills
- 73.1% preparedness for employment after college
- 72.1% preparedness for graduate or advanced education
- 92.2% ability to get along with people of different races/cultures

What They'll Do...

When asked what they plan to be doing in the fall, graduating seniors reported the following:

- 72.5% working full-time and 18.3% working part-time
- 21.7% attending graduate/professional school full-time and 5.9% part-time
- 11.9% completing additional undergraduate coursework/post-baccalaureate program
- 3.3% participating in an organization like the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, VISTA, or Teach for America
- 2.4% serving in the Armed Forces
- 18.2% traveling
- 14.8% volunteer work
- 9.9% staying at home to be with or start a family
- 5.4% have no current plans

When those students planning on being employed after graduation were asked about the current status of their employment plans, graduating seniors answered with the following:

- 19.6% not actively looking for a position
- 43.9% looking, but no offers yet
- 1.5% received an offer for a position, but declined
- 10.7% currently considering an offer
- 17.9% accepted an offer of employment
- 6.4% not planning on employment this fall

When those students planning to attend graduate or professional school were asked about the status on this, graduating seniors answered with the following:

- 10.2% accepted and will be attending in the fall
- 1.3% accepted and deferred admission until a later date
- 1.7% placed on a waitlist, no acceptances
- 8.0% still awaiting responses, no acceptances
- 15.8% will be applying this coming fall
- 44.5% not applying this fall, but might apply at a future date
- 18.5% no plans to apply to school now or in the future

Where They Might Go...

More than half of graduates will stay and work in the region, with 1 in 20 Sacramento residents Sac State alumni, a point of pride for the university.

The last *Sacramento State University Fact Book* (Fall 2016) reports the following, with regard to where alumni are living around the state, nation, and world:

Locally: 86,239 alumni live in the county of Sacramento.

State-wide: 189,246 alumni live in California.

The highest number resides in Sacramento County, as reported above, followed by: Placer County (18,734), El Dorado County (8,013), San Joaquin County (7,545), Solano County (7,362), and Yolo County (7,298).

Nationally: 219,582 alumni live in the United States, including those in California.

The states with the next highest numbers of alumni after California are: Washington (3,358), Oregon (3,206), Texas (2,713), Nevada (2,291), and Arizona (2007).

Globally: 879 alumni live around the world.

The countries with the highest numbers are: Japan (105), India (93), China (59), United Kingdom (56), Malaysia (58), and Canada (54).

What They Added to Our University...

In their time here, they contributed in myriad ways to the character and quality of our institution, and the learning, growth, and vibrancy of the campus.

As they leave with their diplomas, this year's graduating students will also add to the total of degrees awarded by Sacramento State, which, according to the OIR ("Degrees Awarded, 1947-2015"), currently stands at:

Bachelor's Degrees: 192,386

2nd Bachelor Degrees: 1,626

Master's Degrees: 39,434

Doctorates: 89

Total Degrees: 233, 535

What They Achieved...

In earning their college degree, they are more likely to:

- Work and earn about a million more in their life time—better positioning themselves for a lifetime of prosperity and our nation in the global economy.
- Participate in civic affairs—making our democracy stronger.
- Practice a healthy lifestyle—positively impacting that of those around them, as well, which creates a healthier America.
- Make a better life for their families and pave the way for their children to go to college—leaving a wonderful legacy for their future generations.

(Adapted in part from: American Council on Education (2015),

["Higher Education Spotlight: Basic Facts About U.S. Higher Education Today"](https://www.acenet.edu/Documents/Higher-Ed-Spotlight-Basic-Facts-About-US-Higher-Education-Today) (PDF)

<https://www.acenet.edu/Documents/Higher-Ed-Spotlight-Basic-Facts-About-US-Higher-Education-Today>)

What We Can Do

Make Sure They're Ready for Graduation Day...

Students may find the following campus resources helpful for further information or assistance in the graduation process or commencement celebration:

The University Registrar's Graduation and Degree Advising Office—

Reviews the courses completed by a student to determine the official status of the student's progress toward graduation. Students may visit the website to schedule an appointment and obtain further information regarding eligibility and applying to graduate, with a link to the forms to do so, including the Bachelor's Degree Graduation Checklist.

Location: Lassen Hall 2000

Phone: (916) 278-1000, #6

[Graduation Advising Website](https://www.csus.edu/student-life/records-transcripts/graduation-advising/) <https://www.csus.edu/student-life/records-transcripts/graduation-advising/>

Commencement Office—

Provides information regarding preparing for graduation, schedule, policies, steps to take, and answers to frequently asked questions about the commencement ceremony.

Location: Sacramento Hall 150

Phone: (916) 278-4724

[Commencement Office Website](https://www.csus.edu/president/commencement/) <https://www.csus.edu/president/commencement/>

ASI Student Shop—

Sells graduation caps, gowns, tassels, and more online or at the store location.

Location: University Union, Third Floor 3231

Phone: (916) 278-7916

[ASI Shop Graduation Supplies Website](http://www.asi.csus.edu/services/student-shop/products/) <http://www.asi.csus.edu/services/student-shop/products/>

Let Them Know We're Always Here for Them...

Just because they graduate doesn't mean this university won't continue to be of value to them. Alumni may wish to come back for assistance in the next phase of their lives, such as applying for graduate school or finding a job, or to enjoy the community and events at their alma mater.

Graduate School

Alumni who would like to pursue higher degree attainment and postgraduate work to immerse themselves further in their field of study may inquire further at:

Office of Graduate Studies—

Provides information and services 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

[Graduate Studies Office Website](https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/) <https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/>

Employment

Graduates who want to increase their chances of entering and advancing in their chosen careers may still utilize the valuable services provided by the campus Career Center, described below.

Career Center—

Offers a number of resources, programs, and events for students and alumni seeking to lockdown employment and pursue their career path. On the website is a schedule of events and workshops, including on-campus interviews, job and internship fairs, a “Here to Career” workshop series, and more. Students may come by during the drop-in hours posted on the website or call/come by to schedule an appointment for Career Counseling to get help with cover letters and resumes, job search strategies, interviewing preparation, job fair preparation, job application questions, professional communication, networking, career planning, and more. Students may also visit the Career Center Jobs website, which provides further information about employment and on-campus interviewing with regional and area employers, including a Job and Internship Handbook, and the other services and resources described to follow.

Location: Lassen Hall 1013

Phone: (916) 278-6231

[Career Center Website](https://www.csus.edu/student-life/career-center/) <https://www.csus.edu/student-life/career-center/>

[Career Counseling Website](https://www.csus.edu/student-life/career-center/career-counseling/) <https://www.csus.edu/student-life/career-center/career-counseling/>

[Career Center Jobs Website](https://www.csus.edu/student-life/career-center/jobs/) <https://www.csus.edu/student-life/career-center/jobs/>

[Handshake Job Search Website](https://www.csus.edu/student-life/career-center/jobs/handshake/) <https://www.csus.edu/student-life/career-center/jobs/handshake/>

[Big Interview Website](https://csus.biginterview.com/) <https://csus.biginterview.com/>

[Career Network Website](https://sacstatecn.firsthand.co/) <https://sacstatecn.firsthand.co/>

Please note that Sac State alumni may continue to use Career Center Services after graduation!

Connection and Community

The Sacramento State Alumni Association has 7,500 active members, at the latest count, and Sac State graduates may enjoy alumni events, as well as other campus events open to the community, such as the performing arts and sports.

Sacramento State Alumni Association—

Offers opportunities for Sac State graduates to stay connected with their alma mater and alumni, enjoy events, get involved in committees and volunteering, and take advantage of the many benefits listed on the website. Membership costs begin at \$25 per year for recent graduates (for up to five years past the date of graduation).

Location: harper Alumni Center, South End of Campus Phone: (916) 278-6295

[Alumni Association Website](https://www.csus.edu/experience/alumni-association/) <https://www.csus.edu/experience/alumni-association/>

Department of Theater and Dance—

Puts on dance and theater performances. Event and ticket information may be found at:

[Theater & Dance Department Website](https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/theatre-dance/) <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/theatre-dance/>

Sacramento State Athletics Tickets Office—

Sells tickets to Hornet athletics. Event and ticket information may be found at:

[Athletics Ticket Office Website](http://www.hornetsports.com/tickets/index) <http://www.hornetsports.com/tickets/index>

and Wish Them the Very Best...

Congratulations
to this year's
Sacramento State University
Graduating Class