

CSU Campus and Course Selection Guidelines for 2025-26

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California State University (CSU) is the country's largest four-year university system with 23 campuses located throughout the state of California offering bachelor's and master's degree programs in over 350 subject areas. All campuses are open to exchange students although places at some campuses are more competitive. Some subject areas at various campuses are "restricted" (with limited places) or "impacted" (oversubscribed) which are closed to exchange students.

Read this document carefully as it will provide guidance on selecting appropriate CSU campuses for your degree.

1. Selecting CSU Campuses for Exchange. To find campuses that offer a specific subject area of interest, visit the website, <http://degrees.calstate.edu/>. Use the search engine to find which campuses offer a specific subject area **but do not use that website to apply for exchange**. This website is only meant to assist you with finding which campuses offer subject areas of interest. Then, refer to pages 3 and 4 of this document and CSU Campus Profiles on our website for listings of "impacted/closed" and "restricted/limited" subject areas for each campus. Once you have identified possible campus choices, visit the websites of the campus to search for subjects (known as "courses" at the CSU) and their descriptions. Applicants must not list campuses on their applications if the subject area they wish to study is "impacted" (closed). Applicants may list campuses if the study area they wish to study is "restricted" although applicants must be prepared to list more than one campus choice. More information about subjects can be found at csuip.calstate.edu under "Study at the CSU" and "CSU Subject/Course Information".

Campuses have been placed in three groups based on how competitive the campuses are.

Green Group	Blue Group	Red Group
Bakersfield, Chico, Dominguez Hills, East Bay, Fresno, Humboldt, Monterey Bay, Northridge, San Bernardino, San Francisco, San Marcos, Sonoma, and Stanislaus These campuses are the least competitive.	Channel Islands, Fullerton, Maritime Academy, Pomona, Sacramento, San José, and San Luis Obispo These campuses are moderately competitive.	Long Beach, Los Angeles, and San Diego These campuses are very competitive; therefore, no more than one campus in this group should be listed on your application.

Applicants are asked to list up to four campuses on their applications depending on which campuses are selected and what they wish to study. See scenarios below. For scenarios A and B, **you are strongly encouraged to list an extra campus on your application.**

A. List at least two campuses on your application if both of the following conditions apply:

- Your first choice campus is from the **Green Group** and your second choice campus is from either the **Green Group** or the **Blue Group**.
- You are not listing any subjects that are listed as "restricted" on your application. Refer to pages 3 and 4.

B. List at least three campuses on your application if the following condition applies:

- Your first choice campus is from the **Blue Group** and your second and third choice campuses are from the **Green Group** and/or the **Blue Group**.

C. List four campuses on your application if any of the following conditions apply:

- One campus choice is from the **Red Group** regardless of ranking.
- You have listed subjects that are listed as "restricted" at any of your campus choices.

To help ensure your placement, one of your campus choices should be from the **Green Group** unless these campuses do not offer your subject area of interest.

IMPORTANT: Applicants should be prepared to **attend any of the campuses listed on your application**. While we make every effort to place students at their top campus choices, this cannot be guaranteed due to limited and/or competitive

places at some campuses, impacted/closed, or restricted/limited subject areas and other factors, e.g., academic match. Note that impacted and restricted subject areas can change at any time. If a campus cannot accept a student’s application for any reason, we will contact the student’s home university exchange coordinator to discuss another suitable campus. For this reason, we advise that you have alternate choices already selected to expedite your application in case this occurs.

2. Selecting Subjects (Courses). Applicants must list **eight** subjects that you wish to take for each campus choice. Applications without eight subjects listed will not be processed. Check that you meet prerequisites for the courses by referring to the “catalog” or “bulletin” for the campus (found on the campus website). Students can be prevented from taking a course if they do not have the appropriate academic background. Note that detailed syllabi are generally not available before the first day of class for the term that you are applying. Also note that courses listed on an application does not guarantee access to those courses. Therefore, it is critical that you are flexible with selection of courses.

3. Students who wish to study either business or film studies/production. Applicants who wish to study either business or film studies/production at the CSU as an exchange student 1) must have successfully completed the equivalent of one semester’s worth of courses in that subject area based on full time studies, 2) must be enrolled in a degree program in that subject area at their home institution, and 3) must meet prerequisites for courses listed on their application. Students studying film production must also submit samples of their work in film production.

Students must carefully review the section below entitled “Impacted/Closed and Restricted Subject Areas”. Note that places for these subject areas are very competitive and are limited at several campuses. Students should plan to take courses outside of business or film studies/production to supplement their studies in case courses are unavailable.

Students should avoid selecting more than one campus that lists courses as “Restricted” since there are limited offerings in courses for exchange students.

Study Area	Open Places	Restricted (Limited) Places	No Places Available (Impacted)
Business (not including Economics)	Bakersfield, Chico, Dominguez Hills, East Bay, Humboldt, Monterey Bay, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Marcos (except ACCT), Sonoma, Stanislaus	Channel Islands, Fresno, Fullerton, Long Beach, Maritime Academy, San Diego, San Francisco, San José, San Luis Obispo	Los Angeles, Northridge, San Marcos (ACCT)
Film/TV Studies	Chico, Fresno, Humboldt, Monterey Bay, Sacramento	Fullerton, Los Angeles, San José, Northridge	Long Beach, San Francisco, San Diego

Note: Applications from graduate/postgraduate business students who wish to enroll in graduate level business courses are not accepted for exchange. Graduate/postgraduate students are welcome to apply for exchange if they agree to an undergraduate placement and take only undergraduate courses.

4. Graduate (Postgraduate) Students. Applications from graduate students are permitted if students are willing to accept an undergraduate placement, students select only undergraduate courses on page 2 of the application, and students are flexible about their campus choice. Graduate places are based on reciprocity and considered on a case by case basis, subject to restrictions and special permission. Students are advised to consult the exchange coordinator at their home university for more information. Note: Not all campuses accept graduate students, and it may not be possible for graduate students seeking an undergraduate placement to be placed at certain campuses (e.g., San Diego).

5. Advanced Studio-based Subjects. Students who wish to take intermediate and advanced subjects in architecture, dance, fine arts (animation, drawing, painting, sculpture) and music (composition and instruments) must also submit a portfolio (or audition videos for dance and music students) to demonstrate their ability. This may apply to other subjects not listed, as applicable.

6. Selecting Courses at the CSU: Impacted/Closed and Restricted/Limited Subject Areas. The following table lists impacted/closed and restricted/limited subject areas for each campus. Campuses must **not** be listed on an application if

the subject area is listed in the “Impacted (Closed) Subject Area” column. Campuses accept a limited number of applications in certain fields, which are listed below under “Restricted Subject Areas” as offerings can be limited. Applicants who are selected to attend a campus where there are impacted/closed courses disciplines will not be permitted to enroll in courses from those impacted/closed disciplines. Students should only list courses in which prerequisites have been met. Courses labeled under “Extended Education”, Certificate and Credential Programs are closed to exchange students regardless of the campus. The list below is subject to change without notice.

CSU Campus	Impacted (Closed) Subject Areas (Subject areas which are closed to exchange students)	Restricted Subject Areas (limited number of applications are accepted)
Bakersfield	Nursing (NURS)	There are no restricted areas (subject to change).
Channel Islands	Graduate Level Classes 500-699 NURS (Nursing), EMEC (Mechatronics)	Business (ACCT, BUS, FIN, MGT, MKT); Laboratory classes in: Astronomy (ASTR); Biology (BIOL); Chemistry (CHEM); Physical Science (PHSC); Physics (PHYS)
Chico	Music-Recording Arts (MUSC); Nursing (NURS)	Interior Design (IDES); Seufferlein Sales Program courses in Marketing (BADM); Social Work (SWRK)
Dominguez Hills	Clinical Science (CLS); Education/Counselling (all areas); Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS): Nursing (BSN); Social Work (graduate program); Special Education (SPE); Teacher Education (TED)	Music (MUS), Occupational Therapy (MSOT)
East Bay	Dance (DANC); Education (EDUC); Ethnic Studies (ES); Hospitality Management (HOS); Human Development (HDEV); Nursing (NURS); Recreation (REC); Women's Studies (WOST)	Art/Graphic Design (ART); Psychology (PSYC); Studio Art (ART)
Fresno	Nursing (NURS); Computer Science; all Engineering (CE, ECE, ENGR, CSCI)	Business (ACCT, BA, BUS, FIN, HRM, IS, MGT, MKTG)
Fullerton	Education (all areas); Nursing (clinical courses) (NURS)	Arts/Graphic Design (ART); Business Administration BUAD 301, MGMT 449 and MGMT 480; Computer Science (CPSC); Criminal Justice (CRJU); Nursing (NURS)-Clinical (lecture courses permitted). Students interested in taking subjects in these areas must plan to take subjects outside of these areas to supplement their studies. Students interested in taking subjects in these areas must plan to take subjects outside of these areas to supplement their studies.
Humboldt	Nursing (NRSNG) More information can be found on https://admissions.humboldt.edu/apply/impaction	Cannabis Studies(CANN)
Long Beach	Athletics (ATHL); Education (all areas); Film and Electronic Arts (FEA); Nursing (NRSNG); Social Work (SW)	Fine Arts/Graphic Design (ART); Fine Arts/Interior Design (DESN); Industrial Design (DESN); Journalism (JOUR); Linguistics (LING); Music (MUS)
Los Angeles	Business Administration (ACCT, MGMT, MKT); Education (all areas); Nursing (NURS); Biology (BIOL); Criminal Justice (CRIM); Psychology (PSY); Social Work (SW)	Television, Film and Media Studies (TVF)
Maritime Academy	Cruise (CRU); Deck Labs (DL); Firefighting (FF); Naval Science (NSC)	Business. This campus is restricted to students who wish to study Global Studies and International Business with demonstrated interest in maritime affairs. Applicants may be subject to an interview on Skype or Zoom.
Monterey Bay	Mechatronics Engineering (MENGR), Nursing (NURS)	Psychology (PSY)

CSU Campus	Impacted (Closed) Subject Areas (Subject areas which are closed to exchange students)	Restricted Subject Areas (limited number of applications are accepted)
Northridge	Accounting, (ACCT); Engineering Programs (all are closed); Film Production (CTVA); Music (MUS); Nursing (NURS); Radiological Sciences (HSCI)	There are no restricted areas (subject to change).
Pomona	Architecture (ARC) (except for students from Biberach University of Applied Sciences)	ARO-Aerospace Engineering, Accounting (ACC), Animal Health Science (AHS), Animal Science (AVS), Biology (BIO), Biotechnology (BIO), Environmental Biology (BIO), Chemistry (CHM), Civil Engineering (CE), Computer Science (CS), Computer Engineering (ECE), Electrical Engineering (ECE), Kinesiology (KIN), Mechanical Engineering (ME), Physics (PHY), Psychology (PSY)
Sacramento	Construction Management (CM); Education (EDU); Graphic Design (GPHD); Health Science (HLSC); Interior Design (INTD); Nursing (NURS); Photography (PHOT)	Biological Sciences (BIO); Criminal Justice (CRJ); Kinesiology (KINS); Psychology (PSYC)
San Bernardino	Criminal Justice (CJUS); Kinesiology (KINE); Nursing (NURS); Social Work (SW); Psychology (PSYC)	Music (MUS)
San Diego	Construction Engineering/Management (CON E), Nursing (NURS); Television, Film and New Media Production (production emphasis) (TFM)	Business (BUS, FIN, MGT, MKT). Business students should plan to take courses from non-business areas to supplement their studies. Biology (BIOL), Engineering (ENGR), Journalism (JMS), Speech Language and Hearing Sciences, Television and Media Studies (Critical Studies Emphasis)
San Francisco	Apparel/Fashion Design and Merchandising (ADM); Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts (BECA); Business Marketing (MKTG); Cinema (CINE); Computer Science (CSC); Design and Industry (DAI); Dietetics and Food Management (DFM); Education (all areas); Engineering (ENGR), Health Education (HED); Interior Design (ID); Journalism (JOUR); Nursing (NURS); Social Work (SW); Studio Art (ART), Kinesiology (KIN)	Business (ACCT, FIN, HTM, IBUS, ISYS, MKTG); Chemistry (CHEM); Music (MUS)
San José	Education (EDCO); Graphic Design (DSGD); Industrial Design (DSID); Interior Design (DSIT); Nursing (NURS); Occupational Therapy (OCTH)	Business (BUS); Civil Engineering (CEE); Computer Engineering (CMPE); Computer Science (CS); Design Studies (DSGN); Electrical Engineering (EE); Mechanical Engineering (ME); Radio-Television-Film (RTVF)
San Luis Obispo	Animal Science (ASCI); Agribusiness (AGB); Art and Design (ART); Education (EDUC); Music (MUS); Computer Science (CSC); Computer Engineering (CPE); Software Engineering (SE); Agricultural Business (AGB); Graduate Studies in Business (GSB); Electrical Engineering (EE)	Aerospace Engineering (AERO); Architecture (ARCH); Business (BUS); Civil and Environmental Engineering (CE); Communication Studies (COMS); Economics (ECON); Graphic Communications (GRC); Journalism (JOUR); Mechanical Engineering (ME); Psychology (PSY); Wine and Viticulture (WVIT)
San Marcos	Business (ACCT); Education (all areas); Kinesiology (KINE); Nursing (NURS)	Biology (BIOL); Biotechnology (BIOT); Economics (ECON); Special Permission needed for any 500 or higher-level course request.
Sonoma	Chemistry (CHEM); Nursing (NURS)	Biology (BIOL); Communications (COMS); Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies (CCJS); Early Childhood Studies (ECS); Education (selected areas); Human Development (HD); Kinesiology (KIN); Liberal Studies Hutchins (LIBS); Political Science (POLS); Psychology (PSY); Sociology (SOCL)
Stanislaus	Education (all areas); Nursing (NURS)	There are no restricted areas (subject to change).