



Self-Support Capacities in the CSU

Each of the 22 universities in the CSU system has a self-support educational capacity. At the CSU Chancellor's Office, there is a unit that focuses on self-support in the CSU, now called CSU PaCE (Professional and Continuing Education).

[CSU Professional and Continuing Education](#)



Each of the 22 universities in the CSU system is able to use its self-support educational capacity to extend—beyond what state funding can support—its ability to provide programs and academic resources (research, consulting, collaborative engagement in communities) to meet the educational needs of its region and beyond.

Some CSU universities do not regularly make major changes to their self-support offerings (changing the range of programs offered, their modes of instruction or the educational needs they seek to address), while others do so more frequently. At some CSU universities, there is less of a connection between the core work of the university and its self-support capacity.

Each CSU university takes its own approach to using its self-support capacity. Most common offerings are noncredit courses and noncredit certificates that are midcareer-focused (sometimes offered in partnership with a third-party provider).

The Distinctive Approaches to CSUN's Self-Support Programs and Services with a Focus on Student Success

CSUN has distinctive approaches to making use of the capacities self-support offers to a CSU university. The Tseng College (the College) approach focuses on expanding CSUN's academic reach, with programs based on CSUN's academic strengths in teaching and research within and across disciplines.

The College focuses on student success and the educational impact of each self-support program offered. This choice of focus (guided by the College's purpose and values) has resulted in the College investing significantly in the development of programs to enhance its educational impact and student success.

Whether a program is completely new to CSUN or is a state-funded CSUN program that is being offered for the first time in self-support, the College supports (with compensation and collaborative support from senior academic staff in the College) the full group of faculty who will

develop the self-support version of the program as they work through the program development process. The faculty and collaborating staff convene for formative conversations over a number of months. They work together to craft the integrated curriculum—one course building on another to create a comprehensive educational experience for the program as a whole. This approach is used for all self-support degree and certificate programs and is a defining feature of the College's program development model.

When developing online/virtual education (distance learning) for CSUN, the College chose to focus on building a significant instructional-design capacity. For each CSUN fully online/virtual program, after the integration of the program's cohorted curriculum is completed, each faculty member teaching in the program works individually for four to six months with an assigned College instructional designer to craft their specific online/virtual course and take the best advantage of the range of instructional strategies available. This approach has contributed to CSUN's reputation for innovation and quality in the development of online and virtual programs within the CSU.

CSUN's self-support students are primarily working adults. With that in mind, program schedules are designed with the needs of those students.

It is also often a challenge for students who are working adults to navigate the complexities of a large university and it is easy for them to feel disconnected from the university. Given that reality, the College chose to build a student-support capacity that assigns a single program manager/coordinator to work closely with the students in each cohort, from the start to the finish of that cohort. Students in each cohort are assigned a primary program manager or coordinator with whom they work to navigate the full university, and who focuses on keeping them connected and moving forward at challenging moments in their educational lives. This approach reflects the College's commitment to providing continuous, personalized support throughout the student experience.

CSUN, through the Tseng College, has built a range of capacities to ensure that faculty and students are well supported and that CSUN can respond to new opportunities and changing educational needs in the region and beyond. Among those capacities are a financial aid unit focused on financial aid for part-time students in nonstandard term programs, a flexible and agile application and registration unit, and information systems and services units that give CSUN an advantage in making software and data systems work for a changing array of needs.

The College is distinctive within the CSU (and many other universities and university systems) in how closely it works with CSUN's academic colleges and departments. The College created (and supports) the role of academic coordinator to help ensure that ongoing decisions about faculty and student academic and instructional concerns are continuously addressed.

Value and Purpose Committed

The Mission, Purpose, and Values Statement for CSUN's Tseng College was developed by the staff of the Tseng College and is unique to the College. It is regularly reviewed and discussed by the College's full staff and then updated by consensus. It is a living document of the College's purpose and values and, in turn, choices and decisions that are regularly made based on reference to the College's purpose and values. As a self-support college, the College must ensure that it is financially stable but it is these values that guide what the College does and the way it works, with a focus on academic excellence and distinction in service of student success.

[The Mission, Purpose, and Values Statement for CSUN's Tseng College](#)



- [Basic Principles of Program Development for CSUN Self-Support Degree and Credit Certificate Programs](#)
- [Basic Principles of CSUN's Approach to Crafting Fully Online/Virtual Degree and Certificate Programs](#)
- [Basic Principles for the Academic Oversight of CSUN's Self-Support Degree and Credit Certificate Programs](#)
- [Basic Principles for CSUN's Approach to Student Support for CSUN Self-Support Programs](#)

The Same Academic and Approval Standards Apply

The same standards for proposing and approving new degree and credit certificate programs that apply to state-funded CSUN programs also apply to CSUN programs developed and offered using self-support funding.

Organizational Structure of CSUN's Tseng College

CSUN's Tseng College is distinctively structured with a number of unique capacities when considered in the context of CSU's overall approach to self-support at its 21 other campuses. For example, the Tseng College has a financial aid unit focused on part-time students in nonstandard-term programs; an information systems and services unit that enables the College to implement new technologies and to gather data to inform program evolution and refinement of business processes; a full financial and student accounts unit; an admission/registration/client services unit that manages application flow and processes for all CSUN self-support programs; a marketing unit and one of the largest distance learning units with more than 20 years of online teaching and learning experience.

The connection between these units is seamless, which allows the College to draw together its considerable staff knowledge and creative abilities to create and support innovative and increasingly multi-disciplinary and multi-college programs.

[Tseng College Organizational Chart](#)



Tseng College Units / Descriptions

Learn more about the role and responsibilities of each College unit:

- Admissions, Registration and Client Services
 - [Description](#)
- Distance Learning
 - [Description](#)
- Finance
 - [Description](#)
- Financial Aid
 - [Description](#)
- Graduate and Professional Education Programs and Services
 - [Description](#)
- Information Systems and Services
 - [Description](#)
- International Partnership and Programs Development
 - [Description](#)
- Marketing and Communications
 - [Description](#)
- Senior International Officer (CSUN)
 - [Description](#)
- The ReLAY Institute
 - [Description](#)
- University Access Programs
 - [Description](#)

Outcomes Measures

BEING SELF-SUPPORTING – FINANCIAL MEASURES

The College developed a financial approach (unique to CSUN) that provides a significant financial return to CSUN partner colleges and faculty to help ensure that self-support programs attract and hold exceptional faculty essential for student success, and that partner colleges are engaged partners in the creation and support of CSUN's significant distinction and success in the world of self-support in the CSU (and beyond).

The College is committed to a very high level of transparency in its financial, operational and academic processes. The College chose to put all of its financial processes into CSUN's SOLAR data systems so that anyone with full access to SOLAR financials can see transactions and financial details. All student records, including those for noncredit programs, are maintained within SOLAR, creating a fully integrated student information environment. The Tseng College has transparent, consistent agreements with partner colleges and the template for those agreements is widely shared and approved by the CSUN Provost and CSUN Provost's Council when any changes in approach are made by the College (which happens only every three to five years).

The College reports its financial outcomes and financial distributions in a yearly report that is posted on its website and widely shared across CSUN and the CSU. The report for 2025-26 will not be ready until all its numbers are finalized by CSUN late in the fall semester 2026. That report will be shared when it is complete. In the meantime, to get a good sense of the financial world of CSUN self-support, here is a link to the 2024-25 report.

[College Financial Report:
Outcomes Overview 2024-2025](#)

