

FAST FACT

# Delivering that Cap and Gown?

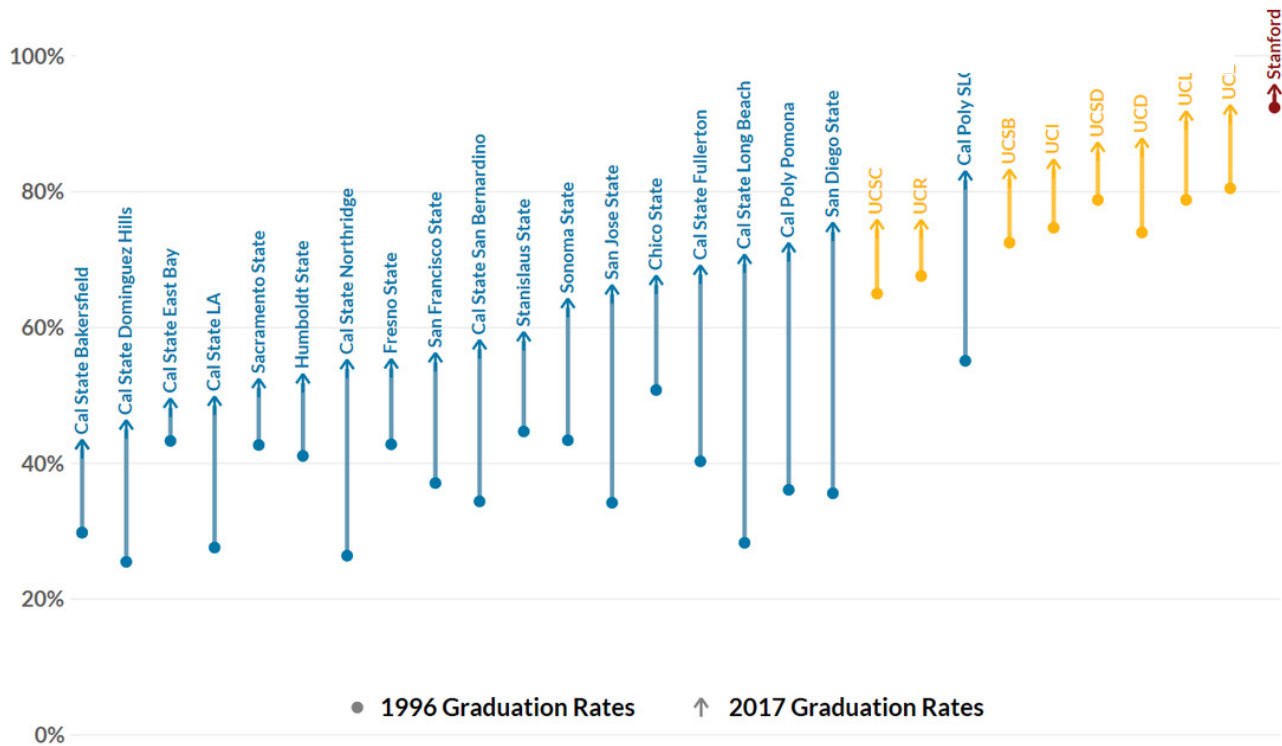
July 15, 2021 | James Hawkins

## How much progress have the state’s universities made in delivering on one of their core missions: a diploma for every student?

Cal State Long Beach, San Diego State, Cal Poly Pomona, and San Jose State all saw the largest absolute increases in graduation rates between 1996 and 2017 — 41.1, 38.5, 35, and 30.7 percentage points, respectively. Generally, Cal State Universities made significant progress in graduation rates between 1996 and 2017. By 2017, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo’s (SLO) graduation rate rivaled, and even exceeded, graduation rates at some UC’s. As a comparison, Stanford’s graduation rate in 2017 still exceeds the rates of any public university in California.

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### Difference in Graduation Rates in 150% of Normal Time between 1996 to 2017 (Ranked by 2017 Rates)



Source: IPEDS, via Education Data Portal v. 0.12.0, Urban Institute, under ODC Attribution License.  
 Sample: CA public universities with incomplete/missing data for 1996 are excluded, including UC Merced, CSU Channel Islands, Cal Maritime, Cal State Monterey Bay, and Cal State San Marcos.  
 Notes: The figure shows the fraction of full-time, first-time bachelor’s degree-seeking undergraduates who graduated in 150% of normal time (six years) as of August 31 of each year.