Key Student Groups Are Less Likely to Complete the Courses Required for Admission to CSU or UC

Percentage of High School Graduates Not Meeting A-G Course Requirement, 2018-19

- Students with Disabilities: 82%
- Students in Foster Care: 80%
- English Language Learners: 74%
- Students Experiencing Homelessness: 71%
- Migrant Students: 69%
- Students with Low Incomes: 57%
- Male Students: 55%
- Students of Color: 51%
- All Students: 50%
- White Students: 45%
- Female Students: 44%

Note: Students must complete at least 15 college preparatory courses (“A-G”) with a grade of C or better to be eligible for admission to the California State University or the University of California. Data on non-binary students are suppressed in the source data due to privacy concerns.

Source: Budget Center analysis of California Department of Education data

- California is home to the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC), which educate thousands of students every year and help them build strong futures for themselves and their communities. CSU and UC require that high school students complete certain courses, known as A-G courses, to be eligible for admission.

- However, California high school students do not have an equal opportunity to successfully fulfill this requirement on their pathways to higher education. In 2018-19, many students, including students with disabilities, English language learners, students with low incomes, and students of color graduated high school without completing the A-G pathway at rates that were higher than the state average of 50%.

- Policymakers can improve CSU and UC access by reforming course requirements so that all students have an equitable chance at pursuing higher education, irrespective of their socioeconomic backgrounds.