



Institutional Information
California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH), Carson, CA

** The information provided in this Institutional Information document reflects the most current data and statistics available at the institution as of May 18, 2018. The entire set of 2017–2018 institutional data is not yet fully analyzed at the time of this submission.*

Background information and evidence of the CSUDH's historical mission to educate students from backgrounds nationally underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research, and efforts to provide services to the underserved community.

Background Information and Historical Mission of CSUDH to Educate Underrepresented Students

California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH), a comprehensive, urban, public university is a Minority-Serving Institution (MSI), Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), and predominantly undergraduate institution (PUI) with the most diverse student population among 25 universities located in Los Angeles County, which is the most populous county in the United States. Founded in 1960, CSUDH began holding classes in the affluent Palos Verdes Peninsula. In response to the 1965 Watts Rebellion, which raised public awareness of systemic inequalities in the region, and in large part as a response to the African-American outcry for higher education opportunities, California leaders placed their hopes on an institution of higher education as a catalyst for change and decided to build a new state college close to the communities impacted by the rebellion. CSUDH was, as a result, relocated after California governor Edmund G. “Pat” Brown visited the area and determined that the Dominguez Hills site in Carson would provide the mostly minority population impacted by the rebellion with the best access to a college education. Today, 50 years later, these roots inform both the university’s mission to serve a highly diverse population, and its efforts to establish policies, practices, and support that encourage the diversity of the University and reinforce its commitment to providing accessible education to an underserved community.

CSUDH leads the state in awarding degrees to African-American students at public institutions (246, or 14%, awarded in the 2016–17 academic year) as well as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) teacher credentials. *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2017 annual “Best Colleges” issue ranks CSUDH in the top 100 most ethnically diverse universities in the West offering bachelor’s and master’s degrees. CSUDH ranks 29th in the nation for the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanic students and also has among the top 100 highest enrollments of Hispanic students in the nation, according to *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* (2017). Additionally, CSUDH was ranked 33rd among the top 100 colleges and universities in the country according to a 2014 *Time Magazine* ranking that assessed how well institutions serve students—placing the highest importance on graduation rates, tuition, and percentage of students receiving Pell Grants. For the fourth year in a row, *Washington Monthly* magazine ranked CSUDH among the top 15 in the nation amongst more than 650 master’s universities for “contribution to public good.” *Washington Monthly* bases its ratings on three criteria: social mobility—helping low-income students earn degrees, research and scholarship, and a university’s commitment to service (2015).

Emerging from a period of contraction and attrition during the Great Recession, CSUDH has recently launched several STEM and health-related initiatives. The Great Recession also saw hiring of tenure-track faculty come to a halt—even to fill vacancies. To make up for those losses, CSUDH has accelerated the hiring of new faculty across all disciplines over the past four years. In particular, there has been a significant increase in the hiring of STEM and health

faculty who engage students in meritorious, high-impact practices such as independent, original research. Being a MSI and a HSI, CSUDH naturally embraces diversity and serves its underrepresented student body on campus as well as the community in which the campus is housed.

Student Profile. Offering 44 undergraduate and 22 master's degree programs, CSUDH enrolls 15,179 students,¹ of which 64.3% are Hispanic/Latino and 13.4% are Black/African-American. With almost 90% of its student body in undergraduate programs, and with no doctoral degrees offered, CSUDH is a PUI. Fall 2017 census data reflects the university's rich student diversity, 54.1% are first generation, 64.2% are Pell-eligible,² and nearly 64% are female (36% male).

The majority of CSUDH students face graduation obstacles often encountered by first-generation, low-income students, or those from under-resourced school districts. In 2017, 61.3% of freshmen required remedial instruction in English, Math or both (CSUDH Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment, 2017). The graduation rate for first-time, full-time freshmen was 42.4% (2010 cohort), the lowest among the 23 CSU campuses; the graduation rate for CSUDH STEM majors averages just 40% (2010 cohort).

Commitment to Transformative Change: Diversity in New Strategic Plan. Under the leadership of President Willie Hagan who was hired in 2013, CSUDH put forth initiatives to start making transformative and sustainable changes to provide access and outstanding training to CSUDH students. In 2014, after a two-year process that included broad campus and community input, CSUDH adopted a new strategic plan for 2014–2020. Included as part of the plan's vision statement is "Diversity in all its forms is explored, understood, and transformed into knowledge and practice that benefits the world."

¹ Fall 2017 census data

² Fall 2017 data