The Impact of Budget Cuts on California’s Community Colleges

Sarah Bohn, Hans Johnson, and Belinda Reyes

Supported with funding from the Donald Bren Foundation, the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, and The James Irvine Foundation
California’s community colleges are the largest public higher ed system in US

- Provide widest access to higher education
- Serve multiple missions
CCC funding is at lowest level in two decades

- Cuts occurred across all missions of the CCCs
- Fewer faculty and staff per student
- 600,000 fewer students served
Outline

- Budget situation
- How colleges have adjusted
- Effects on students
- Conclusion
CCCs face ever-changing budgets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School year</th>
<th>Total per FTES</th>
<th>State gen fund</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Student fees</th>
<th>Lottery funds</th>
<th>State school fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>$5,042</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992-93</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6,651</td>
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<td>1994-95</td>
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<td>1996-97</td>
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<td>1998-99</td>
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<td>2000-01</td>
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<td>2002-03</td>
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<td>2004-05</td>
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<td>2006-07</td>
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<td>2008-09</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Funding per FTES in 2012 dollars
Student fees have more than doubled in recent years
Senior administrators are concerned

- Institutions are in “fair” health (40%)
- Most important challenges in next two years
  - Budget constraints
  - Declining state support
Outline

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Course offerings have declined dramatically...

![Course Offerings Graph](chart.png)
...in all areas

Percent change, fall 2008 to fall 2011

-60 -40 -20 0

-14
All credit courses
-24
Education
-22
Interdisciplinary studies
-22
Public and protective services
-22
Business and management
-20
Engineering and industrial technologies
-18
Fine and applied arts
-6
Humanities

-35
All non-credit courses
-58
Courses for older adults
-31
Short-term career technical
-15
English as a second language (ESL)
Fewer courses and more students mean larger section sizes

Median number of students per section

Academic year

Students are having trouble getting classes they need

- 79% of administrators say wait lists have grown over the past two years
- 85% of colleges had wait lists
  - Almost 500,000 students in total
Most staffing cuts have occurred in credit courses.
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Participation rates are at the lowest levels in decades

Participation rate per 1,000 adults

FTE rate
Participation rate
Continuing students are the only group with enrollment increases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Enrollment (FTE in fall/spring)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2008-09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State total</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuing students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State total</td>
<td>3,606,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing students</td>
<td>1,911,483</td>
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<tr>
<td>Returning students</td>
<td>549,394</td>
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<tr>
<td>First-time students</td>
<td>467,493</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of first time freshmen not keeping pace with high school graduates

![Graph showing the number of high school graduates and first time students for Fall and Spring terms from 1992 to 2010. The graph indicates a consistent increase in both categories over the years, with the number of first time students generally lagging behind that of high school graduates.](image)
Enrollment in transfer courses has declined the least

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2008</th>
<th>Fall 2011</th>
<th>Spring 2009</th>
<th>Spring 2012</th>
<th>Fall change (%)</th>
<th>Spring change (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transferable credit</td>
<td>400,258</td>
<td>394,473</td>
<td>406,119</td>
<td>391,666</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic skills total</td>
<td>65,968</td>
<td>57,776</td>
<td>61,319</td>
<td>55,570</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational education total</td>
<td>169,650</td>
<td>159,647</td>
<td>173,182</td>
<td>157,295</td>
<td>-6</td>
<td>-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Make-up of student body has shifted

- **Age**
  - Largest percent decline among youngest (<18) and oldest (>50)
  - Largest numerical decline among 18-19 year olds

- **Ethnicity**
  - Declines across all groups in enrollment and participation rate
  - But Latino student population relatively stable
Improvements in course completion

Proportion of students retained

- Vocational
- Degree applicable
- Credit
- Transferable
- Basic skills
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California needs to improve college-going rate and success rate

- Recent focus has been on student success
  - But dramatic decline in access deserves attention

- Setting priorities
  - Who should be served?
  - How to fund?

- Options
  - Restore funding
  - Find new funding sources
  - Find new efficiencies
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Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.