

STUDENT EXCELLENCE FEE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

August 2026

California State University, Long Beach

Student Excellence Funding

The Student Excellence Fee (SEF) at CSULB was initially proposed under The California State University Fee Policy, Executive Order 1054 and approved in February 2011 for implementation in the academic year 2011-12. The initial fee approved was \$94 per semester. In October 2013, an additional Student Excellence Fee was approved for implementation effective spring 2014. The revised fee increased from \$94 per student per semester (fall/spring) to \$173.

SEF was implemented in two parts: Part I in 2011 and Part II in 2013. SEF Part I supports:

- Student success, student health and welfare, student centers, student transportation (U-Pass), athletics, and a small amount for academic department chairs.
- Student success dollars replaced a funding source for improving outcomes for students that was lost to budget cuts and protected academic advisors from layoffs.
- Athletics dollars helped cover the rising cost of athletic scholarships as tuition fees increased.

SEF Part II supports:

- “Technology that touches students” – This has been an effort to modernize the campus with respect to digital technology for teaching and learning.
- Modernizing instruction in digital technology is very costly to implement and maintain, and there are very large costs to train faculty to effectively utilize the technology.
- The technological changes, however, are very welcome by students. The new high-tech classrooms are among our most popular venues for teaching and learning.

SEF dollars have therefore been a mixture of funds that offset budget reductions and funds that provide critical modernization.

CSULB budgets are by no means fully restored in inflation-adjusted dollar terms and remain well short of funding needed to modernize instruction with digital technology, which is costly to implement and maintain.

Academic Affairs Student Excellence Funding

In Academic Affairs, SEF funds are distributed in three categories: Highly Valued Degree Initiative, Academic Chairs Educational Services Fund, and Student Technology Services & Academic Equipment & Lab Facilities.

Highly Valued Degree Initiative

SEF funds support CSULB’s student success projects that meet our academic purpose to “graduate students with highly valued degrees.” Successful proposals for SEF-HVDI include a variety of effective programs and initiatives:

- Academic advisors and advising centers
- Peer Advisors and Peer Mentors
- Career Readiness, Career Advisors, and Internship Programs
- Graduate Studies research assistantships
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion workshops and professional development
- Enrollment and Timely Graduation campaigns

- First Year Experience programming
- Student ambassador programs
- Supplemental Instruction
- Tutoring

Since the implementation of SEF-HVDI, the university has made significant progress on student success initiatives including:

- **Increasing degrees awarded** from 7,880 bachelor's degrees in 2015 to 8,900 in 2025, a 13% increase.
- **Increasing access** in ways we thought were impossible. In Academic Year 2016-2017, we enrolled 9,385 new undergraduate students. In 2025-2026, we enrolled approximately 11,891 undergraduate students and a total of over 42,174 students on campus in fall 2025, which is a campus record.
- **Maintaining our commitment to local access.** CSULB received over 125,000 applications for our undergraduate programs (the highest in the CSU). About 6,000 of these are local applicants who meet CSU admission criteria. CSULB continues to provide admission to ALL qualified local applicants. Hence, close to 40% of our enrolled class each fall are local.
- **Increasing our 4-year graduation rate**, which is projected to be 39% this year. This rate has doubled over the past decade. Our 6-year graduation rate is projected to be 68%.

Consultation Process: All seven colleges submit proposals under the leadership of the deans. The proposals are developed by faculty and staff in various units in consultation with the respective student organizations. Proposals are reviewed by the HVDI Steering Committee and assessed based on evidence of prior success at CSULB or support in national literature and the extent to which they directly supported the goals of HVDI. These recommendations are presented to Associate Student Inc. (ASI) leadership for their input and recommendations. The provost reviews the recommendations and submits them to the president for final approval.

Academic Chairs Educational Services Fund

The Academic Chairs Educational Services fund provides department chairs with professional development opportunities for their faculty. This enables faculty to attend professional conferences and provide students with timely instructional materials.

Consultation Process: Funding is provided to each department based on the number of full-time equivalent faculty with a minimum of \$1,000. Department chairs review faculty requests and allocate the funding to benefit faculty development and student success.

Student Technology Services & Academic Equipment & Lab Facilities

The SEF-TECH fund enhances “technology that touches students.” The main criterion for awards is that the technology directly benefits student learning. Highest priorities include student computer labs, high-tech classrooms, and other instructional equipment such as for science and engineering. Second priority is assigned to maintenance, support, and training for instructional technology. Other requests may be supported, if funds are available, so long as uses involve “technology that touches students.”

Funded requests include:

- Classroom technology, maintenance, and support staff
- Computer lab updates
- Hyflex upgrades to university classrooms
- Student engagement tools (PollEverywhere, Playposit, Kaltura)
- Student assessment tools (Turnitin, Gradscope, GoReact)
- Instructional equipment for science and engineering labs
- Improvements to campus wireless network access
- Laptop carts and student laptop loan program
- Library streaming, eBooks, and online databases
- State-of-the-art technology, including the 3D printing lab, 360 Theater, and motion capture
- Partially offset miscellaneous course fees for general services courses
- Expand the campus' student virtual computer lab
- Student Affairs platforms (BeachSync, CareerLINK, Student Recruitment Management)

Consultation Process: Deans, vice presidents, and directors are requested to develop proposals with appropriate student and faculty consultation. Student consultation should include one or both of the two ASI elected senators from the respective college. The provost reviews the baseline plans and proposals with the ASI and academic leadership and submits the recommended allocations to the president for final approval.

Student Services – Student Success, Health and Welfare and Multicultural Student Centers

The funding allows the Division of Student Services to continue providing and enhancing services to students and student groups. Student success, health and welfare programs include:

- Beach Buddy Program providing peer mentorship for incoming students
- Office of Multicultural Affairs Student Resource Center Programming
- Cultural Welcome Events
- Certificate in Learning Differences and Neurodiversity
- Notetakers and Classroom Aides in accordance with ADA compliance
- Learning Disability Assessment Kits
- Student Life and Development student organizations
- Long Beach College Promise Outreach
- Career Peer Advisors
- Internship Roadshow
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) course, peer advisors, and programming
- The Womxn's Collective Womxn of Color Student Success Program and Career Symposium
- Pregnant and Parenting Student initiatives
- Dream Success Center (DSC) Scholars Program
- Color Me Queer community space
- Men's Success Initiative Programming
- DSC Research and Innovation Program

Administration and Finance – Campus Shuttles

The campus provides shuttle services on campus and around the surrounding community to assist with ingress and egress and reduces on-campus traffic. Due to the size of the campus and the many students who live nearby, this has proven to be a very valuable and popular service.

The campus shuttle program costs approximately \$1.5 million annually, but due to increased enrollment and reduction of parking, the program cost increased to \$1.6 million in 2025-26, coming with a subsequent increased allocation of the Student Excellence Fee. This allocation helps defray the ongoing cost of providing these valuable services to the campus community.

Athletics Department - Student-Athlete Scholarships

The CSULB Athletics Department supports over 250 student-athletes on 19 different men's and women's teams. SEF supports:

- **Athletic Scholarships:** The majority of these student-athletes receive some form of financial assistance (scholarships) from the Athletics Department, which plays an integral role in a successful NCAA D1 program. Approximately \$2.5M from SEF helps support these scholarships.
- **Health and Wellness:** Funding contributes to the nutrition and mental health support for student-athletes and provides resources such as athletic trainers and sport performance, which are all vital for student athletes.
- **Student Employment:** Over 100 CSULB students and alumni are employed in a range of positions helping students gain valuable workforce experience in venue and event management, hospitality and customer service, nutrition, athletic marketing and promotions, business, administration, video production, tutoring and mentoring, and communications.

Consultation with Associate Student Inc. (ASI) Leadership

In spring 2026, the review committee consisting of the vice presidents, associate vice presidents, executive director for Athletics, and ASI Leadership members, both in-coming and out-going elected president, vice president and treasurer, met to discuss the proposals submitted for Student Excellence Fee, Parts I and II funding. Each area eligible for SEF funding was invited to present their proposals. The presentation included proposals that were developed with consultation with students, faculty, and staff at the college-division levels.

Proposals requesting funding from SEF Part I, Student Success, adhered to the framework outlined in EO 1055 for highly valued degree initiatives and first-year academic support programs, student success, health and welfare funds, academic chair funds, sustainability/Shuttle, Multicultural/Student Center, and Intercollegiate Athletics.

Proposals requesting funding from SEF Part II, technology that touches students, were evaluated based on how the items benefited the greatest number of students and priority was given to currently enrolled students over future students.

The provost reviews the recommendations and submits them to the president for final approval.

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>SEMESTER COST PER STUDENT</u>	<u>2024-25 ACTUALS</u>	<u>2025-26 ACTUALS</u>	<u>2026-27 Projected</u>
Fall and Spring terms:				
Academic Affairs				
- Highly Valued Degree Initiative	\$33	\$2,593,258	\$2,659,357	\$2,857,075
- Academic Chairs Services Fund	\$2	\$157,167	\$161,173	\$173,156
- Student Tech/Equip/Facilities	\$79	\$6,208,101	\$6,366,338	\$6,839,665
Total		<u>\$8,958,526</u>	<u>\$9,186,868</u>	<u>\$9,869,896</u>
Student Services				
- Student Success, Health & Welfare	\$6	\$471,501	\$483,519	\$519,468
- Multicultural/Student Centers	\$3	\$235,751	\$241,760	\$259,734
Total		<u>\$707,252</u>	<u>\$725,279</u>	<u>\$779,202</u>
Administration & Finance	\$2	\$157,167	\$161,173	\$173,156
- Partial funding of UPass Program and campus shut				
Athletics	\$34	\$2,671,841	\$2,739,943	\$2,943,653
- Partial funding of student-athlete scholarships				
Instructionally Related Activities Reliance Relief	\$7	\$550,085	\$564,106	\$606,046
(from Intercollegiate Athletics)				
ASI Reliance Relief	\$7	\$550,085	\$564,106	\$606,046
(from Intercollegiate Athletics)				
Total Allocation	<u>\$173</u>	<u>\$13,594,956</u>	<u>\$13,941,475</u>	<u>\$14,978,000</u>