

Query Builder: Exploring Pathways to College in California



Explore the first version of the California Cradle-to-Career Data System's Query Builder tool. In its first phase, the Query Builder allows users to analyze data related to education, career pathways, and outcomes. The ready-to-use data files are what power the Student Pathways Data Story and can be readily downloaded in CSV or XLSX format. Here we provide documentation to understand the fields included in each of the downloadable data files.

Data File Title	Description	Formats Available
How have California students navigated to and through college?	This data captures milestones over a period of time for the cohort of California public high school graduates who completed high school in the 2014-2015 academic year. See how many students enrolled in 2- or 4-year public colleges and how many students earned different degree or certificate types.	CSV, XLSX
Who enrolls in college?	This data shows first-time college enrollment rates for students based on their demographics, the district in which they graduated high school, and the institution type they attend.	CSV, XLSX
What types of degrees and certificates do students earn?	This data shows how many degrees and certificates students earn from California public colleges in a given year, broken down by the type of degree or certificate.	CSV, XLSX
How long does it take students to graduate?	This data shows how many students finish their degree or certificate within a certain number of years, calculated from when they first enroll at their awarding institution to when they receive their degree or certificate.	CSV, XLSX
What about students who work while in college?	This data captures the percent of students who earn wages while enrolled at California public 2-year or 4-year colleges. It also includes the median annual wages for these students.	CSV, XLSX
How much do students earn after they graduate?	This data captures the median annual wages for California public college graduates who work in California, based on the type of degree or certificate they earn.	CSV, XLSX

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How have California students navigated to and through college?



This data captures milestones over a period of time for the cohort of California public high school graduates who completed high school in the 2014-2015 academic year. See how many students enrolled in 2- or 4-year public colleges and how many students earned different degree or certificate types.

Field Name	Description	Notes
DISTRICT_TYPE	Whether the district is a K-12 school or legislative district.	
DISTRICT_NAME	The name of the California Public K-12 school district, State Assembly district, or State Senate district where a group of individuals graduated from high school. "All" refers to all California public K-12 school districts.	
DISTRICT_CODE	The seven digit local education agency (LEA) code for the K-12 school district (N/A for legislative districts or all districts)	LEA codes originated in California Department of Education (CDE) enrollment data.
DEMO_CATEGORY	The high-level demographic category, with possible values of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Race - Gender - Foster Youth Status - K-12 Homeless Status 	
STUDENT_POPULATION	Within the high-level demographic category, the student population. Has possible values of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Race): American Indian of Alaska Native - (Race): Asian - (Race): Black or African American - (Race): Hispanic or Latino - (Race): Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander - (Race): None Reported - (Race): Two or More Races - (Race): White - (Gender): Female - (Gender): Male - (Foster Youth Status): Foster Youth - (Foster Youth Status): Not Foster Youth - (K-12 Homeless Status): Experienced Homelessness in K-12 - (K-12 Homeless Status): Did Not Experience Homelessness in K-12 	Race categories align with Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) categories. Race/ethnicity data is observed at the time of high school graduation, based on data provided by CDE
SOURCE	The starting point of a flow. On the Student Pathways Data Story visualization, this is the left node in a pathway diagram flow/branch.	
TARGET	The destination of a flow. On the Student Pathways Data Story visualization, this is the right node in a pathway diagram flow/branch.	
WEIGHT	The count of students in a flow. On the Student Pathways Data Story visualization, this is the width of a pathway diagram flow/branch.	
<p>* To protect student privacy, data may be suppressed (or appear blank) on the downloadable files based on the number of individuals at certain aggregation levels and within selected student populations that are 10 or fewer. For more information about the suppression policies applied to these data, please refer to the Cradle-to-Career System Data Suppression Protocol for Summary Data.</p>		
Last Updated: 9/04/2025		

Who enrolls in college?



This data shows first-time college enrollment rates for students based on their demographics, the district in which they graduated high school, and the institution type they attend.

Field Name	Description	Notes
DISTRICT_TYPE	Whether the district is a K-12 school or legislative district.	
DISTRICT_NAME	The name of the California Public K-12 school district, State Assembly district, or State Senate district where a group of individuals graduated from high school. "All" refers to all California public K-12 school districts.	
DISTRICT_CODE	The seven digit local education agency (LEA) code for the K-12 school district (N/A for legislative districts or all districts)	LEA codes originated in California Department of Education (CDE) enrollment data.
ENROLL_YEAR	The academic year in which a group of individuals first enrolled in college. The current data begins with the 2018-2019 academic year.	
INSTITUTION_TYPE	Whether the group of individuals attended California public 2-year or 4-year colleges.	
DEMO_CATEGORY	The high-level demographic category, with possible values of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Race - Gender - Foster Youth Status - K-12 Homeless Status 	
STUDENT_POPULATION	Within the high-level demographic category, the student population. Has possible values of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Race): American Indian of Alaska Native - (Race): Asian - (Race): Black or African American - (Race): Hispanic or Latino - (Race): Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander - (Race): None Reported - (Race): Two or More Races - (Race): White - (Gender): Female - (Gender): Male - (Foster Youth Status): Foster Youth - (Foster Youth Status): Not Foster Youth - (K-12 Homeless Status): Experienced Homelessness in K-12 - (K-12 Homeless Status): Did Not Experience Homelessness in K-12 	Race categories align with Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) categories. Race/ethnicity data is observed at the time of high school graduation, based on data provided by CDE
NUMERATOR	The number of individuals in a student population group who first enrolled in college.	
DENOMINATOR	The total number of individuals, either from all school districts or a selected school or legislative district, who enrolled in college for the first time in the selected year.	
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Last Updated: 9/04/2025		

What types of degrees and certificates do students earn?



This data shows how many degrees and certificates students earn from California public colleges in a given year, broken down by the type of degree or certificate.

Field Name	Description	Notes
DISTRICT_TYPE	Whether the district is a K-12 school or legislative district.	
DISTRICT_NAME	The name of the California Public K-12 school district, State Assembly district, or State Senate district where a group of individuals graduated from high school. "All" refers to all California public K-12 school districts.	
DISTRICT_CODE	The seven digit local education agency (LEA) code for the K-12 school district (N/A for legislative districts or all districts)	LEA codes originated in California Department of Education (CDE) enrollment data.
AWARD_YEAR	The academic year in which a group of individuals received their degree or certificate. The current data begins with the 2018-2019 academic year.	
DEMO_CATEGORY	The high-level demographic category, with possible values of: - Race - Gender - Foster Youth Status - K-12 Homeless Status	
STUDENT_POPULATION	Within the high-level demographic category, the student population. Has possible values of: - (Race): American Indian of Alaska Native - (Race): Asian - (Race): Black or African American - (Race): Hispanic or Latino - (Race): Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander - (Race): None Reported - (Race): Two or More Races - (Race): White - (Gender): Female - (Gender): Male - (Foster Youth Status): Foster Youth - (Foster Youth Status): Not Foster Youth - (K-12 Homeless Status): Experienced Homelessness in K-12 - (K-12 Homeless Status): Did Not Experience Homelessness in K-12	Race categories align with Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) categories. Race/ethnicity data is observed at the time of high school graduation, based on data provided by CDE
AWARD_CATEGORY	The type of degree or certificate that a group of individuals received. Possible values of: - Community College Certificate - Associate Degree - Bachelor's Degree - Transferred - Bachelor's Degree - Did Not Transfer	
NUMERATOR	The number of degrees or certificates of a certain category awarded by California public institutions in a particular year.	
DENOMINATOR	The total number of degrees or certificates awarded by California public institutions in a particular year.	
<p>* To protect student privacy, data may be suppressed (or appear blank) on the downloadable files based on the number of individuals at certain aggregation levels and within selected student populations that are 10 or fewer. For more information about the suppression policies applied to these data, please refer to the Cradle-to-Career System Data Suppression Protocol for Summary Data.</p>		
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How long does it take students to graduate?



This data shows how many students finish their degree or certificate within a certain number of years, calculated from when they first enroll at their awarding institution to when they receive their degree or certificate.

Field Name	Description	Notes
DISTRICT_TYPE	Whether the district is a K-12 school or legislative district.	
DISTRICT_NAME	The name of the California Public K-12 school district, State Assembly district, or State Senate district where a group of individuals graduated from high school. "All" refers to all California public K-12 school districts.	
DISTRICT_CODE	The seven digit local education agency (LEA) code for the K-12 school district (N/A for legislative districts or all districts)	LEA codes originated in California Department of Education (CDE) enrollment data.
AWARD_YEAR	The academic year in which a group of individuals received their degree or certificate. The current data begins with the 2018-2019 academic year.	
DEMO_CATEGORY	The high-level demographic category, with possible values of: - Race - Gender - Foster Youth Status - K-12 Homeless Status	
STUDENT_POPULATION	Within the high-level demographic category, the student population. Has possible values of: - (Race): American Indian of Alaska Native - (Race): Asian - (Race): Black or African American - (Race): Hispanic or Latino - (Race): Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander - (Race): None Reported - (Race): Two or More Races - (Race): White - (Gender): Female - (Gender): Male - (Foster Youth Status): Foster Youth - (Foster Youth Status): Not Foster Youth - (K-12 Homeless Status): Experienced Homelessness in K-12 - (K-12 Homeless Status): Did Not Experience Homelessness in K-12	Race categories align with Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) categories. Race/ethnicity data is observed at the time of high school graduation, based on data provided by CDE
AWARD_CATEGORY	The type of degree or certificate that a group of individuals received. Possible values of: - Community College Certificate - Associate Degree - Bachelor's Degree - Transferred - Bachelor's Degree - Did Not Transfer	
DENOMINATOR	The total number of individuals who earned their degree or certificate in the selected award year.	
MEDIAN_YEAR	The median number of years that students were enrolled before completing their degree or certificate.	Medians are always whole numbers.
ELAPSED_YEAR(1-8)	The count of individuals who earned their degree or certificate in "x" elapsed years.	
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What about students who work while in college?



This data captures the percent of students who earn wages while enrolled at California public 2-year or 4-year colleges. It also includes the median annual wages for these students.

Field Name	Description	Notes
DISTRICT_TYPE	Whether the district is a K-12 school or legislative district.	
DISTRICT_NAME	The name of the California Public K-12 school district, State Assembly district, or State Senate district where a group of individuals graduated from high school. "All" refers to all California public K-12 school districts.	
DISTRICT_CODE	The seven digit local education agency (LEA) code for the K-12 school district (N/A for legislative districts or all districts)	LEA codes originated in California Department of Education (CDE) enrollment data.
ACADEMIC_YEAR	The academic year in which a group of individuals were enrolled in college. The current data begins with the 2018-2019 academic year.	
DEMO_CATEGORY	The high-level demographic category, with possible values of: - Race - Gender - Foster Youth Status - K-12 Homeless Status	
STUDENT_POPULATION	Within the high-level demographic category, the student population. Has possible values of: - (Race): American Indian of Alaska Native - (Race): Asian - (Race): Black or African American - (Race): Hispanic or Latino - (Race): Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander - (Race): None Reported - (Race): Two or More Races - (Race): White - (Gender): Female - (Gender): Male - (Foster Youth Status): Foster Youth - (Foster Youth Status): Not Foster Youth - (K-12 Homeless Status): Experienced Homelessness in K-12 - (K-12 Homeless Status): Did Not Experience Homelessness in K-12	Race categories align with Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) categories. Race/ethnicity data is observed at the time of high school graduation, based on data provided by CDE
INSTITUTION_TYPE	Whether the group of individuals attended California public 2-year or 4-year colleges.	
PERCENT_WORKING	The percent of individuals enrolled at a selected institution type that earned wages for at least 3 of the 4 quarters of a year(as reported on their W-2).	
MEDIAN_ANNUAL_WAGE	The median annual wages for a group of individuals in a given year. Individuals are only included in this calculation if they have four quarters of non-zero earnings starting from July 1st to June 30 in a given year. Wages are adjusted for inflation.	
* To protect student privacy, data may be suppressed (or appear blank) on the downloadable files based on the number of individuals at certain aggregation levels and within selected student populations that are 10 or fewer. For more information about the suppression policies applied to these data, please refer to the Cradle-to-Career System Data Suppression Protocol for Summary Data .		
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How much do students earn after they graduate?



This data captures the median annual wages for California public college graduates who work in California, based on the type of degree or certificate they earn.

Field Name	Description	Notes
DISTRICT_TYPE	Whether the district is a K-12 school or legislative district.	
DISTRICT_NAME	The name of the California Public K-12 school district, State Assembly district, or State Senate district where a group of individuals graduated from high school. "All" refers to all California public K-12 school districts.	
DISTRICT_CODE	The seven digit local education agency (LEA) code for the K-12 school district (N/A for legislative districts or all districts)	LEA codes originated in California Department of Education (CDE) enrollment data.
ACADEMIC_YEAR	The academic year in which a group of individuals received their degree or certificate. The current data begins with the 2018-2019 academic year.	
DEMO_CATEGORY	The high-level demographic category, with possible values of: - Race - Gender - Foster Youth Status - K-12 Homeless Status	
STUDENT_POPULATION	Within the high-level demographic category, the student population. Has possible values of: - (Race): American Indian of Alaska Native - (Race): Asian - (Race): Black or African American - (Race): Hispanic or Latino - (Race): Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander - (Race): None Reported - (Race): Two or More Races - (Race): White - (Gender): Female - (Gender): Male - (Foster Youth Status): Foster Youth - (Foster Youth Status): Not Foster Youth - (K-12 Homeless Status): Experienced Homelessness in K-12 - (K-12 Homeless Status): Did Not Experience Homelessness in K-12	Race categories align with Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) categories. Race/ethnicity data is observed at the time of high school graduation, based on data provided by CDE
AWARD_CATEGORY	The type of degree or certificate that a group of individuals received. Possible values of: - Community College Certificate - Associate Degree - Bachelor's Degree - Transferred - Bachelor's Degree - Did Not Transfer	If an individual received multiple awards, they are included in their highest ordinal award category.
WAGE_YEAR(1-5)	The median annual wages for a group of individuals in a given year, as early as 1 year after graduation and up to 5 years after graduation. Individuals are only included in this calculation if they have four quarters of non-zero earnings starting from July 1st to June 30 in a given year. Wages are adjusted for inflation.	Some years of wages are unavailable depending on the academic year in which students graduated, but these data will be available over time.
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