

## Milestones, Cal Poly Historical Facts

<b>1901</b>	Legislation founding the California Polytechnic School signed into law.
<b>1902</b>	Leroy Anderson appointed first director of Cal Poly.
<b>1903</b>	First classes held with a total enrollment of 15 women and men.
<b>1929</b>	Legislation passed limiting enrollment to men only.
<b>1933</b>	Julian A. McPhee, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Education, appointed Cal Poly President, moving the Bureau headquarters to Cal Poly.
<b>1936</b>	Third year of instruction added to make Cal Poly a technical school.
<b>1937</b>	Cal Poly renamed California State Polytechnic School by the California State Legislature.
<b>1940</b>	State Board of Education authorized granting of Bachelor of Science degrees upon completion of fourth year and changed School to College.
<b>1942</b>	In June, the first BS degrees awarded to 24 men.
<b>1943 to 1946</b>	During World War II, military training contracts brought two Navy programs to the campus: Naval Flight Preparatory School and Naval Academic Refresher Unit Program. Civilian enrollment down to 80.
<b>1947</b>	Legislation passed officially changing all Education Code references to Cal Poly from School to College.
<b>1956</b>	Women students again admitted to Cal Poly.
<b>1961</b>	On July 1, control over 17 state colleges changed from the State Board of Education to the newly created State Board of Trustees.
<b>1966</b>	President McPhee retired after 33 years as Chief Executive Officer.
<b>1967</b>	Robert E. Kennedy appointed President by the Board of Trustees.
<b>1972</b>	Renamed California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.
<b>1979</b>	Warren J. Baker appointed president by the Board of Trustees.
<b>1996</b>	Implementation of Phase I of the Cal Poly Plan.

*Source:* Dr. Robert E. Kennedy, President Emeritus, Cal Poly

## Cal Poly's Mission Statement

As a predominantly undergraduate university serving California, the mission of Cal Poly is to discover, integrate, articulate and apply knowledge. This it does by emphasizing teaching; engaging in research; and by participating in the various communities, local, state, and international, with which it pursues common interests; and where appropriate, providing students with the unique experience of direct involvement with the actual challenges of their disciplines in the United States and abroad.

Cal Poly is dedicated to complete respect for human rights and the development of the full potential of each of its individual members. Further, it is committed to providing an environment where all share in the common responsibility to safeguard each other's rights, encourage a mutual concern for individual growth and appreciate the benefit of a diverse campus community.

## Statement of Purpose

When the legislature established Cal Poly in 1901, it acknowledged the need for varied educational opportunities and outlined special goals for this institution. Those special goals were reaffirmed by the Trustees of the California State University and Colleges and the Legislature in 1961 when Cal Poly's enabling act was revised and reenacted.

Certain functions of the California Polytechnic State University are held in common with all State University campuses, while others are unique to Cal Poly. "The primary function is the provision of undergraduate instruction and graduate instruction through the master's degree. (Education Code 66608). In addition to the functions provided by section 66608, the California State Polytechnic University shall be authorized to emphasize the applied fields of agriculture, engineering, business, home economics and other occupational and professional fields." (Education Code 90404)

Cal Poly undergraduates students identify with their major from the beginning of their Cal Poly career. Students select majors at the time they apply for admission and they take courses in their major starting in their first year. This gives them a chance to decide early on if they have chosen a field that is appropriate to their interests and abilities. It also helps students associate with faculty and other students in their field, share common interests and learn in a supportive atmosphere.

## "Learn by Doing"

"Learn by doing" has been part of Cal Poly's philosophy from the beginning. Cal Poly has evolved from a vocational high school into a major university, but a hands-on approach to teaching still remains. Classes emphasize active learning methods and include a high proportion of lab work and field work. Activities both on and off campus provide opportunities to apply what is learned in the classroom. Cal Poly's core values, as reaffirmed in Visionary Pragmatism, include "learning at the center of its endeavors, the importance of continuous learning and the preservation of valuable student/faculty relationships."

Cal Poly emphasizes a complete education which teaches students to think logically, evaluate critically and communicate clearly. Instruction incorporates the ideals of a good work ethic, honesty, and the acceptance of individual differences. The university promotes an effective education which will instill an appreciation for life long learning. Cal Poly is committed to excellence in all areas of education.



## University Accreditation

Since 1951, the University has been fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). During 1998 and 1999 the campus was involved in an innovative self study focused on the institution as a “center of learning.” The reaccreditation process culminated in March 2000 with the evaluation team visit to the campus. In July 2000 Cal Poly’s accreditation was reaffirmed by the WASC Commission. The next reviews are scheduled for Spring 2010 and Spring 2011. For more information on the 2000 accreditation, visit the Cal Poly WASC website, <http://www.wasc.calpoly.edu>

## Administrative Organization

### Four Administrative Divisions

The University is organized administratively into four divisions: Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Administration and Finance, and University Advancement. The academic division is organized into six colleges each with its own dean and the University Center for Teacher Education. Academic Affairs also includes the Library, Research and Graduate Programs, and Extended University Programs and Services, and Information Technology Services. University organizational charts are available at <http://www.president.calpoly.edu/charts/index.html>

### Other Special Programs Support the University Mission

**The Alumni Association** keeps in touch with many of the 150,000 students who have attended Cal Poly through a variety of alumni functions both educational and social, on and off campus, throughout California and across the nation. (<http://www.alumni.calpoly.edu>)

**The Associated Students, Inc. (ASI)** is a non profit, public benefit corporation, run by student officers and a board of directors, using student fees to provide the finest collegiate experience possible. With an eight million dollar annual budget, ASI offers a wide variety of programs and services within three locations on the campus: the University Union, the Recreation Center and the ASI Children’s Center. (<http://www.asi.calpoly.edu>)

**Extended University Programs and Services**, including the Conference Coordinating Center and Extended Education, provides a variety of self-supporting programs and services to residents of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and southern Monterey Counties. (<http://www.calpoly.edu/~eups>)

**The Cal Poly Foundation** is a public benefit, nonprofit corporation. It provides the fiscal means, management procedures and key support services that enable the university to provide instructional and support services not normally furnished by the state or would be not otherwise available due to legal, purchasing and other fiscal restrictions. (<http://www.cpfoundation.org>)