The Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) (Public Law 89–329) was legislation signed into United States law on November 8, 1965, as part of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society domestic agenda. Johnson chose Texas State University—his alma mater—as the signing site. The law was intended “to strengthen the educational resources of our colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for students in postsecondary and higher education”. It increased federal money given to universities, created scholarships, gave low-interest loans for students, and established a National Teachers Corps. The “financial assistance for students” is covered in Title IV of the HEA.


- 2013: HEA review extended through 2015

Celebrating 50 Years of Federal Financial Aid
1965 ~ 2015

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Higher Education Act of 1965

“In a very few moments, I will put my signature on the Higher Education Act of 1965. The President’s signature upon this legislation passed by this Congress will swing open a new door for the young people of America. For them, and for this entire land of ours, it is the most important door that will ever open – the door to education.

And this legislation is the key which unlocks it.

To the thousands of young men and women, this means the path of knowledge is open to all that have the determination to walk it.

It means a way to deeper personal fulfillment, greater personal productivity, and increased personal reward. This bill, which I will make law, is an incentive to stay in school.

It means that a high school senior anywhere in this great land of ours can apply to any college or any university in any of the 50 states and not be turned away because his family is poor.”


Milestones – CSUDH and Financial Aid

1960 – California State University, Dominguez Hills was founded as “South Bay State College”

1965 – HEA of 1965 Education Opportunity Grants, College Work-Study, and the Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL)

1965 – First classes held California State College, Palos Verdes in Rolling Hills Estates

1965 – Following the Watts Rebellion, Gov. Pat Brown visited the area and determined that the Dominguez Hills site would provide the diverse, mostly minority population in nearby urban neighborhoods with the best accessibility to a college education

1966 – CSC Palos Verdes became CSC Dominguez Hills and location moved to the Watt campus (after its developer Ray Watt)

1968 – Opening of permanent campus with Small College Complex

1972 – HEA amendment of 1972 creates the Basic Education Opportunity Grant (BEOG) and formula for determining eligibility. FSA programs available - Educational Opportunity Grants, National Defense Student Loans (NDSL), Work-Study, and the Basic Grant (Pell Grant).

1972 – CSUDH approved to participate in the Basic Grant program

1975 – Enrollment jumps 18.5%; college becomes fastest growing in the state

1976 – College Scholarship Service (CSS) creates the Financial Aid Form (FAF)

1977 – College meets criteria to become a university with enrollment of 6,500 students with 25% graduate students, and with 45 degree programs

1978 – Middle Income Student Assistance Act (MISAA) opened subsidized guaranteed loans to any student regardless of income or financial need

1980 – HEA amendment of 1980 renames the Basic Grant to the Pell Grant and introduced parent loans

1986 – HEA Amendments of 1986 allows financial aid administrators the discretion to adjust data elements through professional judgment

1992 – HEA Amendments of 1992 creates the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); the unsubsidized loan was introduced

1997 - FAFSA on the Web created for the 1997-1998 award year

2009 – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided $100 billion for education; provided funds to states for success programs, also increased to Pell Grant and Work Study funding

2009 – IRS Data Retrieval Tool becomes available for the 2009-2010 award year

2010 - CSUDH celebrates 50th anniversary

2011 – US Department of Education issues new regulations defining gainful employment

2011 – California Assembly Bill No. 131 passes and allows AB540 students to apply and receive financial aid from the State of California

2013 – US Supreme Court ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) causes students and parents in same-sex marriages to be counted as married on the FAFSA

2015 – President Obama announced significant changes to the FAFSA, beginning the 2017-2018 award year. Changes include being able to apply earlier and use earlier income

We are committed to providing quality service, guidance and resources to students in the pursuit of their educational goals. We are also committed to providing accurate information about the financial aid process, and supporting the overall campus mission.

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1000 East Victoria Street – Carson, CA 90747
(310)243-3691

6 http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/implementation.html