



# CAL POLY

## Office of the President

Dear Cal Poly Community,

Following the [recent message to the university community](#) outlining progress on our academic calendar, we are sharing an update on planning for Year-Round Operations (YRO) with the goal of a phased implementation beginning in Summer 2028.

For several years, the university has been exploring how to expand opportunities for students while strengthening the Learn by Doing experience that defines Cal Poly. This work reflects a broader vision, focused on enhancing student learning and engagement across the academic year and throughout students' Cal Poly journey.

The model under consideration includes three academic semesters per year, with students typically enrolled in two and able to use the third semester for internships, co-ops, study abroad, research, their summer sea term or other pursuits. For the majority of current faculty, teaching will continue to align with the traditional academic year, with additional opportunities available across the year.

This work is now moving into a more focused phase across the university, including planning for additional faculty, staff, facilities, infrastructure and support. Today, we are sharing an update on why YRO matters, the work underway across the university, and what lies ahead.

### **WHY YRO MATTERS**

#### **Expanding access**

Demand for a Cal Poly education continues to grow, and we turn away

far too many qualified students. Moving to a year-round model allows the university to serve more students while reducing bottlenecks in high-demand areas and maintaining small class sizes.

### **Enhancing Learn by Doing**

Departments will have greater flexibility to structure courses and learning experiences throughout the year. This approach strengthens student success by expanding access to meaningful, career-aligned experiences, helping graduates enter the workforce or further study with greater preparation and clarity.

### **Positioning Cal Poly for long-term impact and institutional stability**

Making more effective use of facilities, infrastructure and academic capacity supports responsible growth and long-term financial sustainability, which in turn enables continued investment in faculty, staff and the systems needed to sustain academic excellence and the student experience.

## **PROGRESS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY**

Planning for YRO is underway across the university, building on consultation and work conducted over the past 12 months. Recent work includes:

### **Partnering with colleges on early academic program planning**

aligned with enrollment modeling and long-term capacity to identify initial areas of readiness.

**Conducting multi-year enrollment growth modeling** and projections to guide pacing, instructional planning and resource needs, including faculty and staff hiring to support YRO implementation.

**Engaging with peer institutions** operating year-round academic models to help inform a strong and intentional Cal Poly approach.

## **WHAT COMES NEXT**

Over the coming months, we will focus on resource planning and preparing for implementation with college leadership, department chairs, faculty, staff, students and shared governance partners. This includes:

**Continued development of a structured, symmetrical academic calendar** in advance of a full YRO launch.

**Assessing and planning** for academic and student support services, housing and campus infrastructure, including planning for potential upgrades and more effective use of existing space.

**Developing cross-campus project teams** focused on academics, student support, operational areas and communications.

**Implementation of equity programs** supported by the resources generated through YRO to sustain these investments over time.

**Understanding the student perspective** with a series of town halls and conversations to gather input.

## **COMING SOON**

**Additional YRO information will be shared in the coming weeks**, including a message from Provost Al Liddicoat with more detail on academic program planning.

**A dedicated YRO planning site** is also being developed and will serve as the central resource for updates, planning materials and FAQs.

This initiative represents a significant step in shaping Cal Poly's future by strengthening Learn by Doing, expanding opportunity and access, and enhancing the student experience in new and impactful ways.

Thank you for your continued engagement.

Sincerely,

**Jeffrey D. Armstrong**

President

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