Student Affairs delivers innovative co-curricular learning experiences that directly impact student recruitment, retention, and graduation from Cal Poly. The division is committed to the active engagement, wellbeing, inclusion, and success of all students as they progress to graduation and accomplish lifelong aspirations. Student Affairs drives graduation initiatives set forth by the California State University (CSU) and is intrinsically involved in the university’s commitment to create a comprehensive, integrated strategy that improves graduation rates and closes the achievement gap for various student populations.

The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs oversees departments that promote success throughout the Cal Poly experience by providing Learn by Doing opportunities, delivering innovative, student-centered programs, encouraging personal growth, and empowering our students within a safe, healthy, inclusive and supportive environment.

Vision
The vision of Student Affairs is to inspire all students to embrace their unlimited possibilities.

Values
Champion the student
Student Affairs provides comprehensive support, guidance and advocacy to create the environment for all students to reach their full potential.

Create visionary programs and services
Student Affairs serves as a leader in delivering innovative and extraordinary co-curricular learning experiences that directly impact student recruitment, retention and graduation.

Sustain meaningful partnerships and collaboration
Student Affairs partners throughout the campus and local community, building strong relationships through active communication to foster an inclusive environment for student success.

Cultivate continuous learning
Student Affairs matches the quality of Cal Poly’s in-class experiences with out-of-class experiences that enhance Learn by Doing.

Promote ethics, integrity and respect
Student Affairs values and celebrates all students, staff, faculty, parents and the extended community with a commitment to employ honest and ethical decision-making practices in all that the division does.

Student Success-Focused Programs and Services
The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs provides divisional leadership, support and oversight of the following units and departments: Associated Students, Inc. (student government, facilities operations, programs and services), Intercollegiate Athletics, access and equity programs (New Student and Transition Programs, Educational Opportunity Program, Cal Poly Scholars, Academic Skills Center, Disability Resource Center), Cal Poly Cares, Campus Health and Wellbeing (medical services, counseling services, health education, wellbeing, Safer), Career Services, Commencement, Diversity and Inclusion (Cross-Cultural Centers, Black Academic Excellence Center, Dream Center), Office of the Dean of Students (Clubs and Organizations, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Center for Leadership, Center for Service in Action, Center for Military-Connected Students, Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Parent and Family Programs, student crisis management), and University Housing. In addition, the office oversees divisional strategic planning, assessment and research, marketing, fund development, dining programming, and advocates to the community, policy-makers, and the Chancellor’s Office for all student engagement and programming outside of the classroom.

Commencement
The Commencement Office provides graduates and guests with a memorable and meaningful graduation experience that symbolizes the culmination of their academic achievements. Commencement ceremonies are coordinated in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and the university’s Commencement Operations and Policy Committees, which are held twice annually in June and December.

To be eligible to participate in commencement ceremonies, students must satisfy at least one of the following:

- Completed all degree requirements and have not participated in a previous commencement ceremony;
- Be currently enrolled in classes that will complete all of that student’s degree requirements; or,
- Be registered for classes for the following term that will allow the student to complete all of their degree requirements.

Students completing all degree requirements in the Winter, Spring or Summer terms are automatically eligible to participate in the Spring (June) Commencement. Students completing all degree requirements in the Fall term are eligible for Fall (December) Commencement. Graduate (Masters) students must submit a Request for Graduation Evaluation Form to the Graduate Education Office at least two quarters prior to the anticipated term of degree completion.

Students who wish to participate in a commencement ceremony other than the one for which they are scheduled and in which they are eligible to participate must complete a Commencement Request Form.

Parent and Family Programs
Parent and Family Programs provides support, resources and exciting programming for the proud parents, family members and supporters of Cal Poly students. The program is designed to enhance student success and increase parent engagement. It also offers a robust communication platform, increases awareness of university resources, and helps parents and supporters develop strategies to meet the unique challenges of guiding students throughout the college years.

WITH US Center for Bystander Intervention
With Us is a national, multi-issue bystander intervention research center committed to addressing critical social issues impacting the health, safety and success of college students.