February 4, 2025 Company

OpenAI and the California State University system bring AI to 500,000 students and faculty

The largest deployment of ChatGPT to date will expand the use of Al in education and help the United States build an Al-ready workforce.



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The California State University system (CSU) is taking a historic step to expand the use of AI in higher education by providing more than 460,000 students and over 63,000

organization or company anywhere in the world. With a system-wide rollout across 23 campuses, CSU will become the first Al-powered university system in the United States—and a global leader in Al and education.

The broad access to ChatGPT will allow CSU students to integrate AI into their studies, while faculty can use it to streamline administrative tasks, freeing up more time for teaching and research. This initiative will enhance the CSU experience and equip students with essential AI skills to succeed in an increasingly AI-literate workforce and succeed in an increasingly AI-driven U.S. economy through AI initiatives like:

- Next-Gen Teaching and Learning: Faculty can leverage ChatGPT for curriculum development and interactive course-specific GPTs, while students benefit from personalized tutoring, study guides, and information retrieval.
- Al Coaching: CSU will introduce a dedicated platform offering free training
 programs and certifications for all students, faculty, and staff, equipping them
 with the skills to effectively use Al tools like ChatGPT. This initiative ensures a
 comprehensive approach to Al skill-building across the university system.
- Al Workforce Readiness: CSU will connect students with apprenticeship programs in Al-driven industries, ensuring graduates enter the workforce with indemand Al skills.

"The CSU has long been known for our unwavering commitment to access, equity and innovation. To uphold our mission, we must ensure that our diverse students from across California and staff are 'Alempowered' to thrive as our world evolves."

Dr. Mildred García, Chancellor of the California State University

Just two years after its launch, ChatGPT supports over 300 million weekly active users worldwide. Among its most popular uses is learning. Students and lifelong learners rely

suggests AI can significantly enhance educational outcomes and career readiness:

Harvard researchers found that an AI-powered tutor, customized for a physics course, doubled student engagement and improved problem-solving, particularly for those with less prior knowledge. Meanwhile, a Microsoft study found that individuals with AI skills are over 70% more likely to be hired, highlighting the growing demand for AI proficiency in the workforce.

"Al-powered universities" have also emerged worldwide, with institutions like Arizona State University, ESCP, Harvard University, London Business School, Oxford, and The Wharton School taking steps to make Al as fundamental to their campus as using the internet. CSU's deployment takes this model a step further, ensuring that students across an entire school system—not just a single campus—have access to this transformative technology.

"It is critical that the entire education ecosystem—institutions, systems, technologists, educators, and governments—work together to ensure that all students have access to AI and gain the skills to use it responsibly. CSU is setting a bold example for the education sector."

Leah Belsky, VP and General Manager of Education at OpenAl

OpenAl's mission to ensure that AGI benefits all of humanity includes using Al to democratize knowledge and empower people to solve hard problems worldwide. ChatGPT Edu, launched in May 2024, was built to support this transformation, providing universities with campus-wide access to OpenAl's latest models, enterprise-level security, and cost-effective pricing. As Al continues to shape the future, ensuring students and educators worldwide can engage with Al will remain a critical priority. CSU's system-wide adoption sets a precedent for how institutions can integrate Al at scale, offering a powerful model for the future.

Authors

OpenAl

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