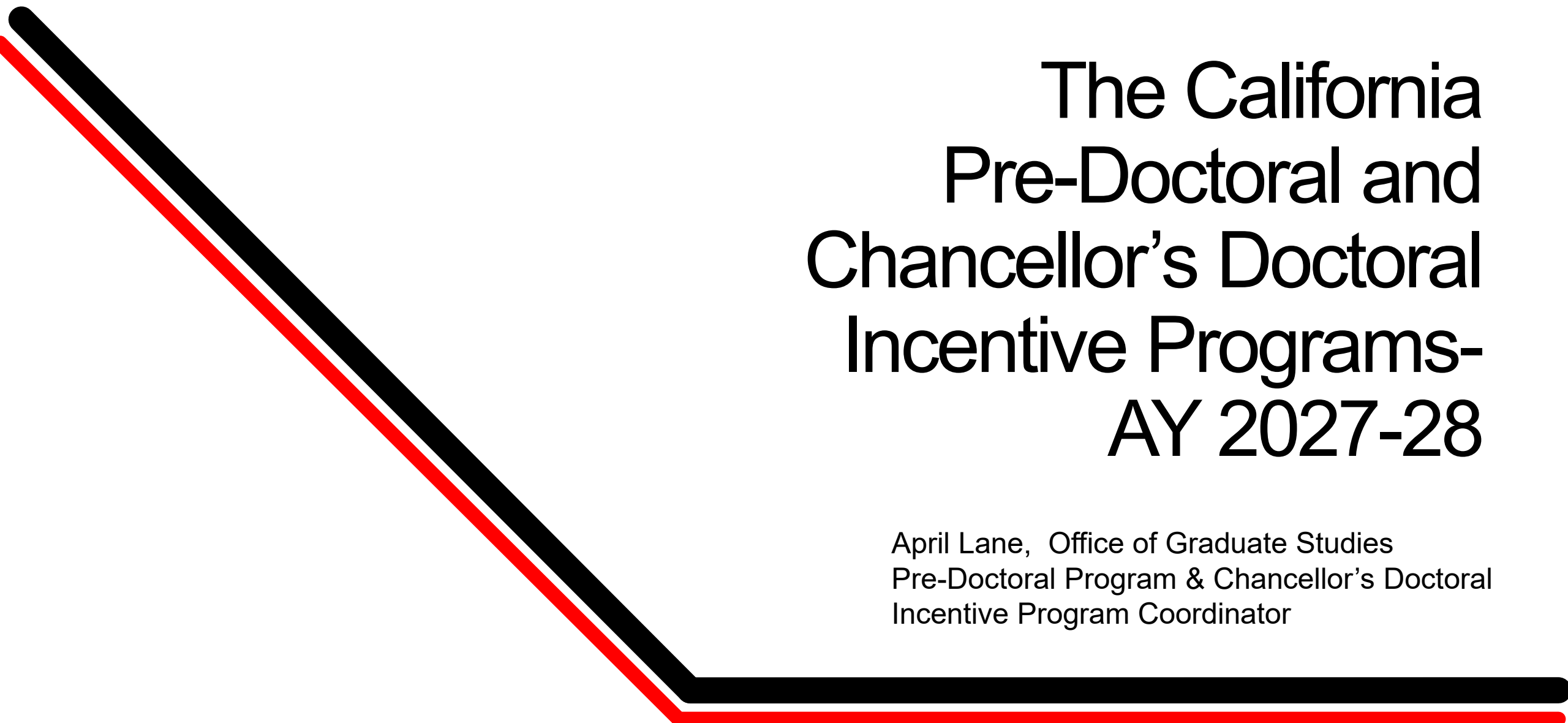




The California Pre-Doctoral and Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Programs- AY 2027-28

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Pre-Doctoral Program & Chancellor's Doctoral
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What Will Be Covered?

California Pre-Doctoral Program, the Health Professions Scholars Initiative (HPSI), and the Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program

- About the programs & what they have to offer
- Eligibility
- How to apply
- Application deadlines
- Optional internal review process
- Mentorship
- Where to start and timeline

Pre-Doctoral Program

The Pre-Doc Program provides financial assistance for students who are interested in exploring and preparing for a doctoral program.

Awards are based on:

Competitive review of applications

Demonstration of academic excellence while experiencing economic or educational disadvantage

Pre-Doc Scholars may use funds (\$5,000) for

Meeting faculty and students at U.S. doctoral-granting institutions, membership in professional organizations, subscriptions to academic journals, GRE preparation, to cover the cost of graduate school application and test fees

Provides an opportunity to apply for participation in a funded summer internship opportunity



Left: Sukhmanpreet Kaur
Right: Marlena Brown

[Click here to read more about our 2026-2027 California Pre-Doctoral Program Scholars!](#)

Two Pre-Doctoral Program Options

The California Pre-Doctoral Program (Pre-Doc)

- Supports the doctoral aspirations of CSU students who have experienced economic and educational disadvantages
- Emphasis is on increasing the number of CSU students who enter Ph.D. programs at a University of California campus
- Work closely with their CSU faculty mentor



The Health Professions Scholars Initiative (HPSI)

- Helps guide CSU students toward graduate education in the health professions by fostering mentorship, applied research opportunities, and community-focused scholarship
- Work closely with their CSU faculty mentor



Both programs offer awardees the opportunity to apply for a summer research opportunity at a doctoral-granting institution

Program Perks

Both the Pre-Doctoral Program and Health Professions Scholar Initiative offer

- Travel Funds for the student to visit U.S. doctoral-granting institutions to meet with faculty and students and/or to attend professional meetings appropriate to the student's development
- Development Funds for activities such as student membership in professional organizations, subscriptions to academic journals, graduate school applications and test fees, GRE preparation, and the cost of minor research materials
- A funded Summer Research Experience opportunity at a UC campus, or other U.S. major research university, Separate application required

Participant Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria (both the Pre-Doctoral Program and the Health Professions Scholars Initiative)

- Enrolled at a California State University campus (2027-28 academic year)
- Be matriculated at a California State University campus as an upper-division undergraduate or master's student for Fall 2026
- Plan to pursue a **research** doctorate (Ph.D. or equivalent). Professional programs such as law, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, or the MBA are not eligible
- Have a CSU faculty mentor, at the campus you attend, to support research training and scholarship

Pre-Doc Program: Previous Pre-Doc Program Scholars are not eligible to reapply

Health Professions Scholars initiative: Current or previous Pre-Doctoral Program Scholars are not eligible to re-apply

Pre-Doc Application Details

- Components of the application include
 - Online Application through Smartsheet
 - Educational Information
 - Curriculum vitae (CV)
 - Statement of AI
 - Three Essays*
 - Faculty Mentor Letter of Recommendation
 - Student Budget Proposal
 - Unofficial Transcripts

*Essay prompts are unique to the HPAI



Selection Criteria & Next Steps

The 2027-28 cohort will include juniors, seniors, and master's students in the California State University. Applicants will be selected through a holistic review process by CSU faculty members considering the following criteria:

Potential for success in doctoral study

Clarity and feasibility of their budget proposal and plan for educational enrichment

Alignment with the California Pre-Doctoral Program's goals to increase access to advanced education for California's future faculty

- **If you are interested in applying, start now**

- Find your tenured/tenured-track faculty mentor. Network early to connect with faculty
- Prepare your application materials*
- (**Optional**) Have your application reviewed by a CSUSB faculty committee before submission. This is strongly recommended but not required. The due date hasn't been determined yet but will probably be in mid-January
- Complete the online Pre-Doc application: **The application is scheduled to open on Tuesday, December 1, 2026. The application due date is pending, but will probably be mid-February 2027**

Tips for Applicants

- Start early! Draft your essays well before the deadline
- Find resources under “Application Toolbox” on our [California Pre-Doctoral Program page](#)
- Take advantage of the [Graduate Writing Center](#)
- Meet regularly with your mentor to design a focused, realistic budget proposal
- Keep your budget proposal aligned with your doctoral preparation goals.
- Ask for feedback on your essays and CV from your coordinator, mentor, and/or writing center
- [Log into your existing Smartsheet account](#), often bound to your institution email address, or [create a new account](#)

The Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP)

The mission of the CDIP is to provide professional and academic support to doctoral students aspiring to teach the diverse students of the CSU system

At the foundation of the CDIP is the mentorship between a CSU faculty member and the fellow

The CDIP also provides

- Opportunities for professional development workshops
- Social connection
- Grant and research support
- Financial assistance in the form of a forgivable loan



Left: Veronica Morales
Right: Stephanie Alfonso

[Click here to read about our 2026-2027 CDIP Fellows](#)

Mission and Goals of the CDIP

- Provides an opportunity for exceptional applicants interested in working as scholars and teachers in the CSU to receive comprehensive support during their doctoral studies
- Create a qualified and diverse faculty to meet the needs of the most ethnically and economically diverse student body in the nation
- Increase the number of CSU faculty who have the desire and commitment to teach the diverse student body of the CSU

Both CSU and Non-CSU students can apply

CDIP Overview

- The CDIP helps doctoral students turn their faculty aspirations into reality through CSU Faculty mentorship, professional development, and financial assistance
- Each of the selected will be designated as a CDIP Fellow and will work closely with their CSU faculty mentor to develop an overall plan that leads to a faculty career focused on student-centered teaching and research. ***This plan should be tailored to the specific goals and career objectives of the doctoral student***
- Additionally, The CDIP grants support the collaborative activities of CDIP fellows and their faculty mentors. Fellows can apply for small grants to further their doctoral training and to attend professional conferences and workshops
 - **The Doctoral Education Support Grant** provides up to \$2,500 for collaborative activities and research-dissertation activities, including research supplies, small equipment, computer programs, software, books, journal subscriptions and research related travel
 - **Conference Travel Grant** provides fellows and mentors up to \$1,500 for travel to participate in professional meetings, conferences and workshops
 - Fellows who have advanced to candidacy are eligible to apply for a **Dissertation Fellowship award** of \$5,000 to support them in their final year of their doctoral studies

Optional Loan

The CDIP offers loans up to \$10,000 per year over five years, with a maximum amount of \$30,000. The loans are

- Repayable over a 15-year period commencing one year after completion of, or withdrawal from, full-time doctoral study
- Forgivable at the rate of 20% for each year of full-time postdoctoral teaching employment in the CSU or 10% for each year of half-time postdoctoral teaching employment in the CSU

CDIP Eligibility

- Individuals applying to or currently enrolled in accredited doctoral programs in the United States with a goal of becoming student-centered faculty are eligible
- Individuals must have a CSU Faculty Mentor who is on the tenure track or tenured at the time of application. You can contact a CSU Campus coordinator to help you identify a faculty member

U.S. citizenship is not required, but applicants for CSU instructional faculty positions must be eligible to work in the United States



The Application Components

- Find your faculty mentor – Start now
- Work with your mentor and complete the [application components](#)
 1. Bio/Demo Information
 2. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
 3. Essays (3)
 4. Collaborative Plan of Support: Teaching, Research & Scholarly Activities, Service & Leadership
 5. Two Letters of Recommendation - Refer to CDIP Guidelines
- The application opens October/November 2026
- Application closes: **February 12, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. (PST)**

While it is not required, we encourage you submit a draft application for review by our CSUSB review committee before you submit the online application. (Due 1/13/2027)



Additional Information



Our CDIP Team encourages interested applicants to

- Attend a Zoom Info Session at their campus
- Attend a Zoom Info Session offered by the Chancellor's Office CDIP team: When they are scheduled [you can find them here](#)
- If you are already in a Ph.D. program, you need to have at least one year remaining in your program to be eligible

CDIP Eligibility - Special Degree Considerations

- Faculty Careers
- CSU EdDs: Yes! However, be prepared to make a strong case of your desire to become future faculty

Doctoral program's mission explicitly includes preparation and training of future university faculty members. Plan to provide strong evidence for how your program will prepare you to be qualified and competitive for CSU faculty positions

Additional Information About Your Mentor

The role of your mentor is to support you in your doctoral training and development as a researcher and a teacher

How to find a Mentor

- Speak with your undergraduate advisor, graduate program coordinator, or a faculty member who conducts research in an area that you want to pursue
- Speak with the chair of your department or a tenure-track faculty member in your area of discipline
- Watch the previously recorded [Finding a Faculty Mentor Workshop](#)
- Reach out to me if you need assistance in identifying a mentor

Ready to get started?

California Pre-Doctoral Program Information

<https://www.csusb.edu/graduate-studies/financial-support/california-pre-doctoral-program>



Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program Information

<https://www.csusb.edu/graduate-studies/financial-support/chancellors-doctoral-incentive-program>



GOOD LUCK WITH THE PROCESS

Reach out to me with any questions you may have about applying
I'm available to meet in-person, via Zoom, or by the phone

April Lane

Pre-Doctoral & Chancellor's Doctoral Program Coordinator

909-537-7381, alane@csusb.edu

You can also [self-schedule an appointment](#)

