



BEACH XP

A learning community for first-year students

OUR ORIGINS AND PHILOSOPHY

The Beach Experience (Beach XP) at California State University, Long Beach is a learning community created as part of a strategic initiative to empower first-year students by enhancing their sense of belonging, persistence, and academic success. At its core, Beach XP seeks to support students through a holistic, wrap-around approach as they navigate the transition into university life, offering a structured learning community where they can connect with peers and mentors, engage with campus resources, and foster a strong foundation for personal and academic growth.

Aligning with the university's broader vision, "**Cal State Long Beach: Where California Dreams,**" Beach XP embodies the spirit of enabling dreams and encouraging students to make meaningful contributions within California and beyond. The program dovetails seamlessly with CSULB's values, offering a nurturing environment in which students can not only dream big, but also take concrete steps toward realizing those dreams.

"I enjoyed the friendships and relationships made in the classroom."

"The professors are very helpful and that helps me do well in class."

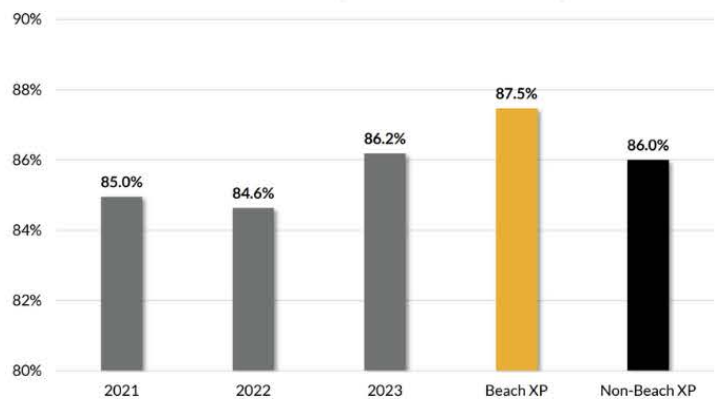
Each college's Beach XP pathway will be unique, but many will feature:

- Exclusive access to the first-time, first-year podcast
- Full-service learning hub through Canvas
- Personalized contact with professors
- Social activities to choose from
- Connection with campus resources
- Smaller class sizes
- Mentorship and tutoring opportunities

Demonstrating Impact

Since its launch in fall 2023, Beach XP has demonstrated a positive impact on student retention and success. In its inaugural year, the program welcomed 742 students, representing 13% of the incoming class. Among this group, first-year persistence rates were notably higher than their non-participating peers, signaling the program's effectiveness in fostering resilience and academic commitment. The program nearly doubled in size during year two, supporting around 1,300 students across 55 cohorts.

'23-'24 First-Year Persistence Rate by Cohort and Beach XP Participation



Beach XP Trends	2021	2022	2023	Beach XP	Non-Beach XP
Headcount	4,865	5,365	5,756	742	5,014
Persistence Count	4,133	4,541	4,961	649	4,312
Persistence Rate	85.0%	84.6%	86.2%	87.5%	86.0%

LOOKING AHEAD: YEAR THREE AND BEYOND

Beach XP aims to further extend its reach in year three, targeting approximately half of incoming first-time, first-year students, broadening its impact on campus and strengthening the OneBeach community. To support this expansion, the program is reimagining how students engage with learning management systems by introducing hybrid modules and tailored learning experiences.



Students can join the interest list and learn more at csulb.edu/beach-xp

YEAR THREE SNAPSHOT



Beach XP Podcast



One-Stop Shop
Canvas Shells



Gamified Activities



XP and Beyond
Canvas Shell

A new and exciting addition to the program is the launch of the **Beach XP Podcast**. Recognizing the unique needs of CSULB as a commuter campus and embracing new media and content consumption habits, the podcast offers students an accessible way to stay connected to campus life through engaging, relatable content. Complementing this innovation is the creation of the **Beach XP and Beyond Shell**, an organizational Canvas shell that serves as a central repository of resources. Students remain enrolled in this resource hub even after completing their first year, ensuring continued access to tools, support, and opportunities throughout their college journey. Additionally, the program is introducing new **gamified activity modules**, designed to make learning both interactive and enjoyable. These modules not only enhance engagement but also encourage students to actively explore campus resources and develop essential skills. Together, these initiatives broaden access and adaptability, making CSULB a true hub of inclusive, accessible, and flexible learning.

CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND BUILDING TRADITIONS

A cherished tradition in the Beach XP program is gifting each student a specially designed trucker hat — a symbolic gesture celebrating their decision to pursue higher education at Cal State Long Beach. More than just headwear, the hat serves as a congratulatory, “Hats off to you!” for embarking on their collegiate journey, while also carrying a forward-looking message. It represents the path ahead, encouraging students to persist and envision the day their Beach XP hat transforms into a graduation cap. This simple yet powerful emblem connects their present efforts to their future achievements, serving as both a keepsake and a source of motivation.

