

STATEWIDE

# BRIEFS

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In another sign of the state's economic woes, freshmen entering in the fall of 2009 are being urged to apply early to California State University campuses.

The application window opens Wednesday. Because of state budget shortfalls, the system will not be able to absorb as much growth in enrollment as usual, officials said Monday, so later applicants risk losing out on their schools of choice.

Six of the most popular campuses -- Fullerton, Long Beach, Pomona, San Diego, San Luis Obispo and Sonoma -- plan to stop taking applications Nov. 30. The 17 other campuses will accept applications through March 1, but may close down certain programs or majors when they reach capacity. A [CSU website](#) tracks which campuses are accepting applications and which majors are open or closed.

This is the second year in a row with tight deadlines; many CSU campuses previously took applications until September. Cal State is the largest four-year higher education institution in the country, with 450,000 students.

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