
PREFACE

California's ability to preserve the current levels of access to its system of public higher education is being threatened by increasing enrollments, pressures on the state budget, and the increasing costs of higher education. This study addressed the conditions under which California can preserve access over the next two decades. In addressing these conditions, the study used a new approach to decision making under uncertainty, called exploratory modeling, that combines traditional quantitative forecasting techniques with insights from scenario planning.

This effort was one element of a larger program performed by RAND Education to study issues of direct relevance to California's higher education system. As such, this work should be of interest to California policymakers dealing with higher education within the state, as well as to policymakers in other states who may be facing issues similar to those confronting California.

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