Basic Definition of a comprehensive university:

- An institution for higher learning with teaching and research facilities typically including a graduate school and professional schools that award master's degrees and doctorates and an undergraduate division that awards bachelor's degrees.
- Includes institutional diversity (students and programs)

The University Next Door: What Is a Comprehensive University, Who Does It Educate, and Can It Survive? (Schneider and Deane, 2014)

CSUF Statements on being a model public comprehensive university:

- Cal State Fullerton aims to become a model public comprehensive university, nationally recognized for exceptional programs that prepare our diverse student body for academic and professional success.
- We seek to create an environment to enable the academic success of our students and the University's efforts to address the needs of our region, engage our alumni, serve as an exceptional educational and cultural resource for our community, and promote a global outlook. We combine the best qualities of teaching and research universities where students, faculty, staff, and administrators work in close collaboration, fostering personal and professional development and advancing knowledge. We are committed to promoting the value and accessibility of higher education and advancing the long-term sustainability of our University. We value our inclusive, transparent and vital system of collegial governance. These commitments are embedded in the University's mission and will be critical in achieving the goals outlined in this five-year plan.

US News and World Report

- Reputation (high school counselors)
- Retention
- Faculty Resources
- Student Selectivity
- Graduation rates
- Financial Resources.
- Alumni Giving

Summary: Areas connected with Faculty and Pedagogy

- High Quality Programs coupled with high retention and high graduation rates
- Faculty Research
- Faculty Resources
- Community Engagement
- Educating a diverse student population