

# Degree Requirements – Undergraduate

Candidates for graduation must satisfy the regulations described in this section, and those outlined by the major department.

The Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees are offered with majors in the several fields listed under Curricula Offered. In addition to the BA and the BS, the Bachelor of Music (BM), the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), the Bachelor of Nursing (BN) and the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degrees are also offered. Specific requirements for degrees in each field are outlined in the departmental sections of this catalog. All candidates for graduation must satisfy the general regulations described on the following pages in this section, as well as those outlined by the major department.

## Additional Graduation Requirements

All requirements listed here may be met either by passing waiver examinations, where available, or by coursework. Students should note that success in a waiver examination satisfies a requirement but does not yield unit credit. For information about the examinations, see the Testing Office in the Student Services Center, or call 408-924-5980. Courses which satisfy the requirements are listed under “General Education Requirements and Courses” in the schedule of classes, with the exception of Physical Education activity courses.

## American Institutions Requirement

U.S. History, U.S. Constitution, California State and Local Government. State law requires all students graduating from a CSU campus to demonstrate knowledge of these three areas, also referred to as the American Institutions and Ideals, the Title 5, or the “state code” requirement. Students may complete waiver exams or coursework to satisfy the requirements. Consult the “General Education Requirements and Courses” section in the SJSU Schedule of Classes for approved courses or the Testing Office for information about the waiver examinations. Students should consult an advisor to determine which of the various course combinations are best for their degree objectives.

## Continuous Attendance and Election of Graduation Requirements

Undergraduate students remaining in attendance in regular sessions at any California State University campus, at any California community college, or any combination of California community colleges and campuses of The California State University may, for purposes of meeting graduation requirements, elect to meet the requirements in effect at the campus from which they will graduate either:

1. at the time the student began such attendance,  
– or –
2. at the time of entrance to the campus,  
– or –
3. at the time of graduation.

Continuous attendance is defined as enrollment in at least one semester or two quarters in each calendar year. Absence related to an approved educational leave or for attendance at another accredited institution of higher learning is not considered an interruption, providing the absence does not exceed two years.

Campus authorities may authorize or require substitutions for discontinued courses and may also require students changing their major or any minor field of study to complete the major or minor requirements in effect at the time of the change. Students who do not maintain attendance will be held to any new requirements approved by the university at the time of their readmission.

## Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)

All students must demonstrate competency in writing skills as a requirement for graduation.

SJSU students satisfy this requirement by completing a 100W Writing Workshop course. A satisfactory score on the Writing Skills Test (WST) is required either to waive or to enroll in the 100W course designated by the major. Majors which require the 100W as part of the major, however, do not accept the waiver. Information on currently available ways to meet this graduation requirement may be obtained from the Testing Office, the current *SJSU Schedule of Classes* (<http://info.sjsu.edu/home/schedules.html>) and the Student Services Center.

Graduate students should refer to the section on Competency in Written English.

## Double Major

If a student has completed the requirements for two or more majors leading to the same baccalaureate degree for the same graduation application period, those majors shall be acknowledged on a single diploma and on their transcripts. If a student has completed the requirements for two or more majors leading to different baccalaureate degrees for the same graduation application period, both degrees and majors shall be acknowledged on a single diploma and on their transcripts. Each major or formal concentration, not including courses in preparation for or in support of the major, must consist of at least 36 units for Bachelor of Science degree majors, or at least 24 units for Bachelor of Arts degree majors, units that are completely separate and distinct from the other degree or formal concentration.

## Minors

A minor may be required or recommended at the option of the major department. A student may also elect to complete a minor. The minimum criterion for **any** minor must be 12 units of course work completely distinct and separate from the course work in one's major. However, courses in preparation for or in support of the major may be included in the minor. Of the courses taken for a baccalaureate minor, 6 units must be upper division; for a teaching credential minor, 12 units must be upper division or graduate. If a minor is completed after a degree has been granted, the minor is not recorded on the student's permanent record.

## Physical Education Requirement

It is important that all students, regardless of major, have an opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills in physical activities. To accommodate the needs and interests of SJSU students, the Department of Kinesiology offers a diverse selection of activity courses which have the following goals:

- To provide a fundamental understanding of the influence physical activity has on physical and mental well-being;
- To promote development of a repertoire of skills for constructive leisure activity and a physically active lifestyle important to maintaining health;
- To provide an understanding of the guidelines for developing and maintaining physical fitness throughout the lifespan;
- To provide exposure to a variety of lifetime fitness activities and sports; and
- To enhance the student's liberal arts education and develop a well-rounded individual.

All students must complete two units of physical education from two different Kinesiology/Dance activity courses. To challenge the requirement, students must consult the Department of Kinesiology at least one semester prior to graduation.

Kinesiology and Dance activity courses are not repeatable for credit. In addition, only one Intercollegiate Athletics course may be used to fulfill one unit of the physical education graduation requirement.

## Residence Requirements

For all bachelor's degrees, including second baccalaureates, a minimum of 30 units shall be earned in residence after matriculation at the campus granting the degree. Twenty-four of these units shall be earned in upper division courses, 12 of the units shall be in the major and 9 units shall be in General Education. Extension credit or credit by evaluation shall not be used to fulfill any of the 30 units. Winter Session for previously matriculated students earns residence credit; Open University units are not applicable toward the residence requirement.