

Curricular Courses and Programs with High Success Rates

SJSU has a number of other curricular programs that have led to student success. These centers and programs expose students to high impact practices. These include programs that provide opportunities for students to study aboard, engage in service-learning, conduct research, and apply their knowledge in internships.

[Humanities Honors](#)

The Humanities Honors Program was founded in 1954 by professors of history, literature, the arts, and philosophy. It has proven to be a highly successful path to completion of most of the General Education (GE) requirements for students from all majors [INSERT TABLE OF SUCCESS INDICATORS in APPENDIX X]. It is multi-disciplinary, globally inclusive, and collaborative four-semester program of humanities-centered study, that uses a learning community to support student success. In the program, a team of faculty works with a two-year cohort of students, teaching, advising and offering guidance. It is formulated to emphasize the interrelationship of art, literature, philosophy and social institutions. It is centered in the interdisciplinary study of world culture. "Interdisciplinary" means that world culture is considered through the lens of different academic disciplines including: music, art history, rhetoric, philosophy, history and political theory, literature, and theatre. Through the study of cultures, students develop a foundational knowledge of the stories of human history and how civilizations have arisen and transformed into the cultures of the world today. Humanities Honors curriculum spans Antiquity, the Middle Ages and Renaissance, Revolutionary and Modern Eras, and the Contemporary Era. Enrollment is increasing. In the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan [LINK], a goal has been set to create 2 simultaneous cohorts of Humanities Honors, with one beginning in fall and one beginning in spring semester.

[MUSE](#)

In 2002, SJSU began its efforts to offer a First Year Experience for all incoming students with the goal of having all new first-time freshmen and transfers enrolled in such a class by 2010. Beginning in 2002, the Metropolitan University Scholars Experience (MUSE) served as the overarching program. Interested faculty developed coursework and an assessment committee oversaw the evaluation of this program. Although this program had 85 courses in Fall 2002, the number of courses offered decreased over time, with 49 courses offered in 2004. As reported by the AAC&U's project "[Give Students a Compass: Collegiate Learning, General Education, and Underserved Student Success](#)" these courses were effective in improving student GPA and retention. Eventually, in the face of budget constraints, the MUSE program proved to be financially unsustainable. However, based upon assessment reports of the MUSE program, a great deal was learned about why MUSE was successful, and these elements were integrated into other programs.

[Science 2](#)

The purpose of Science 2, "Success in Science", is to assist students from all majors in becoming successful at San José State University. Although envisioned as a service to science majors, a majority of enrolled students are from other majors. Science 2 introduces students to College of Science faculty, SJSU campus administrators, and campus resources. It also provides students with a wide range of

information regarding various university policies and procedures as well as practical study skills to prepare them for the successful completion of “gateway” courses in the sciences at SJSU. This course has a track record of improving student GPA and retention. The course focuses on the development of the social capital necessary for success in the university environment and recognizes the social/cultural changes that are inherently a part of the high school to university transition. Expansion of Science 2 is ongoing and other colleges are developing similar course (Business 10 in the Lucas College of Business, for example).

[CommUniverCity.](#)

In 2003, SJSU faculty, students, and community leaders convened to develop grassroots town-gown projects. They began with first service learning courses linking San José State students and the Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrace neighborhood. Two years later, these and other achievements were linked to create [CommUniverCity](#). CommUniverCity provides rich, meaningful community engaged learning (also known as service learning) opportunities to SJSU students from every college to develop and integrate their knowledge and skills while participating in applied community based projects in partnership with the neighborhoods surrounding our campus. CommUniverCity’s brand of community engaged learning goes beyond connecting students with volunteer activities, and purposely fosters opportunities championed by faculty to address community-identified needs. The instructional strategies employed by faculty affiliated with CommUniverCity support student success by integrating within coursework field-based “experiential learning” with community partners, with the purpose of analyzing and solving real world problems. These instructional strategies include community engaged learning, project-based learning, and participatory action research and align with the university learning goals of integrating and applying knowledge, developing intellectual skills, and addressing local social issues through a multicultural perspective. SJSU departments of Justice Studies, Urban and Regional Planning, and Political Science are only a few of the departments to partnered with CommUniverCity to serve the San Jose area.

CommUniverCity’s projects develop a strong sense of civic responsibility among our students. Sixty-six (66%) of students participating in CommUniverCity-led projects have indicated in post-project surveys that the social impact of their work was the most rewarding aspect of their community engaged projects, modeling the idea that “giving something back to the community is an important college outcome, and that working with community partners is good preparation for citizenship, work, and life” (Kuh, High Impact Educational Practices, 2008).

2013 marked an expansion of CommUniverCity with 5 new innovative programs and an increased service area. In 2013 alone, CommUniverCity engaged 9,601 residents and 1,569 students in 35,364 hours of community engaged learning.

Detailed information about CommUniverCity can be found in Appendix XX.

[Center for Community Learning and Leadership](#)

The Center for Community Learning & Leadership (CCLL) was established in January 2000 as part of the Office of Undergraduate Studies as a means of institutionalizing community learning within the

academic program. The Center promotes and develops knowledge, values, skills, motivation and means for students to become participants in public life in an informed, committed and constructive manner, with focus on addressing community problems. It also establishes and sustains partnerships between academic departments/ faculty/courses and community organizations to enhance learning, meet community needs, strengthen community relations and develop social responsibility and leadership. Finally, together with other leading community engagement entities on campus, CCLL comprises the Community Engagement Collaborative, which includes the Career Center, the Cesar Chavez Community Action Center, CommUniverCity, and the Sociology Community Change program.

Center's programs include:

- [JusticeCorps](#), an AmeriCorps-grant funded collaborative project of the California Administrative Office of the Courts; the Superior Courts of California, Counties of Alameda, Los Angeles, Placer, Yolo, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Sacramento; select University of California and California State University campuses; and many community-based service providers.
- [Project Students Helping In the Naturalization of Elders](#) (SHINE) at San José State University is an intergenerational and intercultural community learning program. Project SHINE links community learning students with older immigrants and refugees seeking to learn English and navigate the complex path to U.S. citizenship.
- [Students Against Violence Everywhere](#) (SAVE) at SJSU was recognized as an official chapter of the national SAVE organization in Fall 2008. In Spring 2009, SAVE was recognized by Associated Students as a Student Club at SJSU. Throughout 2011, SJSU SAVE officers and members contributed to preventing intimate violence on campus and in the community by developing unique informational pamphlets, disseminating printed information at both campus and countywide events, conducting workshops, and evaluating current intervention efforts. SAVE is a student driven organization. SAVE members provide public education to prevent relationship violence and serve as campus and community leaders in creating a safe and supportive community based on principles of equality and nonviolence.
- [Veterans Embracing Transition Project](#) (VET) is a collaborative effort with the Career Center that assesses and addresses the needs of veterans in college. Programs include an academic course for veterans focused on the often-difficult transition to civilian life. VET offers peer leadership opportunities at both the Center for Community Learning & Leadership and the Career Center as well as educational workshops for student veterans and those that serve them.

[Co-Curricular High Impact Practices](#)
[Global Technology Initiative](#)

In 2004, the SJSU Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering established a \$1 million Global Technology Initiative (GTI), with the mission of providing SJSU students a global perspective with a focus on technology and business developments in the Asia Pacific region. The program expands students' horizons about the opportunities and challenges of a global economy, exposes them to global

Commented [CJ1]: Pertaining to activities contributing to the academic learning experience; especially activities that provide students with opportunities to learn and develop skills through active participation. Co-curricular activities and programs may be led by faculty or staff, or by students themselves, but they must have stated goals and measured outcomes

<http://www.purdue.edu/vpsa/slo/documents/Definition%20of%20Co-curricular.pdf>

environmental and energy problems in which technology plays a central role, and motivates their learning of global issues and different cultures.

GTI participants in previous years have completed study-tours in China, India and Taiwan. In 2014, 24 GTI participants participated in an intensive three-week workshop at Chung Yuan Christian University (CYCU) in Jungli, Taiwan that will offer engineering students an opportunity to develop an innovative product and a business model to market it.

[Salzburg Scholars](#)

The SJSU Salzburg Program was created in 2005 through a long-term partnership between San José State and the Global Citizenship Program (GCP) at the world-renowned Salzburg Global Seminar to enhance the university's education of global citizens. The program seeks to develop a critical mass of collaborative change agents to work on interdisciplinary projects to enhance global citizenship and was recognized in 2010 as one of the "Top 10 Programs on Global Citizen Diplomacy" by the US Center for Citizen Diplomacy, NAFSA, and the United States Department of State.

Each year a group of faculty, staff, and administrators serve as SJSU Salzburg Fellows and a group of students to serve as SJSU Salzburg Scholars for an 18-month period spanning three semesters. All attend a Global Citizenship Program conference in Austria each summer and spend the subsequent academic year working on a mix of individual and group projects to help globalize the university. They also participate in professional and social activities during the academic year—including guest talks by visiting experts on global issues, interdisciplinary panels and events during SJSU International Week each Fall semester, and the Provost's Honors Seminar.

[Silicon Valley Center for Entrepreneurship](#)

The Silicon Valley Center for Entrepreneurship promotes effective entrepreneurship through knowledge creation, knowledge dissemination, collaborative partnerships and outreach activities. In addition to undertaking research that is valuable to entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs and developing entrepreneurship curriculum informed by research, it fosters an entrepreneurial mind-set among students at San Jose State University and strengthens the connective fabric of innovation and entrepreneurship within the University and in Silicon Valley, through interactions and partnerships among SJSU faculty, students, entrepreneurs, investors, and other stakeholders.

For students and other members of the SJSU community, the SVCE sponsors a variety of events, including the [Silicon Valley Innovation Challenge](#), speaker events, and a business plan competition. The Innovation Challenge is an annual forum that promotes creativity and entrepreneurship by showcasing innovative business ideas. The Challenge has grown from a single day event to a two-stage event in which participants first submit their ideas to an online community and receive feedback from faculty, peers, and industry professionals. Then, finalists are invited to a final showcase where cash prizes are awarded.

[Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, Creativity, and Arts Events](#)

- ***Spartan Psychological Association Research Conference (SPARC)***. Begun in 1957, SPARC provides undergraduate and graduate students in psychology an opportunity to present their

research, build relationships with other students and faculty, and broaden their knowledge of cutting-edge research from numerous areas of psychological science. It provides a full day of program events, including oral presentations, poster presentations and invited speakers.

- **[SJSU Student Research Competition](#)**. The SJSU Student Research Competition takes place annually in March and its winners are invited to participate in the [CSU Research Competition](#). Each college may send forward to the Office of Graduate Studies & Research a total of four students (undergraduate and/or graduate, as well as alumni/alumnae who received their degrees in Spring, Summer, or Fall of the previous year) who have done outstanding research or creative activity.
- ***Humanities & the Arts Showcase***. Each spring, students present performances in theatre, music, dance, poetry and reading stole the show, as well as poster presentations, research/scholarship reports and multimedia displays.
- ***College of Science Research Day***. Each spring, students from the College of Science demonstrate the hands-on research lab experience they have gained at SJSU. Typically, over 120 students participate, representing partnerships with up to 40 faculty.
- ***Undergraduate Research Awards***. Beginning in 2012, faculty mentor-undergraduate student pairs were encouraged to apply for a Undergraduate Research Grant. These grants provide up to \$1,000 in financial support to undergraduate students who work closely with a faculty member to conduct research, engage in field studies, create projects in their discipline, or participate in similar scholarly/creative activities. Whether students designed their own project or worked on a professor's project, they worked closely with a faculty mentor.