



# Your Spartan Guide to WASC:

## *Overview of the Institutional Report*

WASC stands for Western Association of Schools and Colleges. It is SJSU's regional accrediting body. Accreditation demonstrates to prospective students, their families, alumni, employers, potential donors and the broader community that San Jose State University graduates are well-educated and prepared for the workforce. Only accredited institutions may administer federal financial aid to their students.

The self-study focuses on SJSU's commitment to student learning. The information presented in the 8 sections of the report reflects the effort, expertise, and dedication of thousands of students, faculty, and staff. In them, we describe how we define student success, assess student learning, and make policy, resource, and program decisions in which student learning and achievement are primary considerations. Below are a few facts from the report. Leading up to the WASC Accreditation Visit April 14-15, more detailed summaries of each chapter in the report will be published. The full report is available at [www.sjsu.edu/wasc/portfolio](http://www.sjsu.edu/wasc/portfolio)

### University Learning Goals

SJSU has developed University Learning Goals (ULGs) that describe what all graduates should know when they graduate. The ULGs are mapped to Program Learning Outcomes. The Career Center and a student advertising group have developed materials to explain and promote the ULGs to students.

### Quality Assurance

WASC requires the assessment of 5 core Competencies (Information Literacy, Oral Communication, Written Communication, Critical Thinking, and Quantitative Reasoning) by 2019.

We have highly developed Information Literacy assessment, and our least developed competency is Quantitative Reasoning (QR). We are exploring broader use of capstone courses, which are a high impact practice that supports student success and provides an opportunity for integrative assessment.

### Student Success

In response to the CSU Chancellor's Office Graduation Initiative Program, SJSU set goals to improve graduation rates and cut in half the achievement gap between Under-Represented Minorities and all other first-time freshmen and transfers. While overall graduation rates continue improving, the achievement gap persists.

Student success initiatives include:

- Increased accessibility of advising.
- Enhanced remediation
- Early identification of writing deficiencies.
- Reduction to barriers to student success, such as gateway courses.

### Development Activity

We recently completed the [Acceleration Campaign](#), raised \$208,863,349. The University has created a new comprehensive branding campaign "Powering Silicon Valley" to support future fundraising campaigns.

### Sustainability

State funding contributes less than 50% of the cost of educating our students. A \$33 million structural deficit accumulated by funding operations at pre-reduction levels during the recent economic downturn has been eliminated. Beginning in FY 2014-2015, we anticipate continued positive financial stability.

### University Infrastructure

We have [four major building projects underway](#) that provide needed upgrades to our aging physical plant and the campus has begun an update of our Facilities Master Plan.

### Enrollment

Aggressive recruiting of international students led to the fall enrollment of over 2000 international students, among the highest in the CSU. Non-resident students do not count towards our FTEs targets provided by the state, but may not take seats from resident students.