



Your Spartan Guide to WASC: *SJSU Graduate Programs*

Graduate and credential programs hold a special place in the life and contributions of San José State University. We offer over 75 master's and two doctoral degrees. In AY 2014-15, over 7,000 SJSU students are pursuing graduate study. They represent approximately 25% of the student body and are the largest graduate cohort in the California State University system.

Unique and Diverse Graduate Programs

SJSU's graduate programs are offered on campus, online, and in hybrid modes. Many are accredited by their professional organizations.

- **Off-campus self-support programs** – such as the MBA Executive program – take graduate study directly to the professional workforce.
- **Online programs** – such as Library and Information Science, Archives and Records Administration, and Public Health – serve an increasingly global student body.
- **Innovative interdisciplinary programs** – such as Engineering and Business, Forensics, Biotechnology, and Medical Product Development – are part of the dynamic Silicon Valley.
- **Graduate-level only programs** – such as Urban Planning, Creative Writing, Occupational Therapy, and Public Administration – focus intensely on professional preparation at the master's level.
- **Doctoral programs** – in Education (EdD) and Nursing Practice (DNP) – are among the first of their kind in the CSU.

Graduate-Level Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

Our graduate program learning outcomes (PLOs) align with the University Learning Goals for all students. Achievement of graduate PLOs is measured through embedded course assessment and department-specific offerings of the three culminating experience options: master's thesis, graduate project, or comprehensive examination. Each program's PLOs are easily accessible on program websites.

High Impact Practices

Smaller size and specific educational focus allow SJSU's graduate programs to be sites of innovation and high impact educational practices (Kuh, AACU, 2008):

- **Shared intellectual experiences** through seminars and co-curricular opportunities facilitating intensive inquiry into the discipline's leading questions and research methods.
- **Collaborative assignments and projects**, often in interdisciplinary teams.
- **Writing intensive** courses in the style of the profession or discipline.
- **Opportunities to work closely with faculty** on research, publication, and teaching.
- **High level internships.**
- **Community-based learning** through field work, applied projects, and case studies.
- **Inclusion of ethics, diversity and global learning** in the curriculum.

Supporting Graduate Students and Faculty

The Office of Graduate & Undergraduate Programs strives to ensure the development of quality degree programs, recognize and reward student and faculty accomplishments, and facilitate implementation of university policies and procedures.

The Office actively promotes opportunities for student research. It also promotes numerous scholarship opportunities, including pre-doctoral scholarships and the Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program.

Recent initiatives and support include

- **Streamlined graduate admissions processes**, including a Graduate Admissions Handbook and enhanced communication with applicants and prospective students.
- **New Student Orientation** for all graduate students.
- **Enhanced writing support for graduate students** through the Writing Center.
- Efficient **Institutional Review Board** policies and systems.
- **Teaching Assistant Training sessions**
- **Job and Internship Fairs**, with emphasis on graduate-level professional development.
- Regular **Graduate Advisors meetings**

The university and its faculty recognize the importance of graduate education to augment and focus faculty research efforts, to train students for the workplace, and to meet the needs of the community at large for high level employees with both theoretical and practical knowledge.