



# Your Spartan Guide to WASC: *Meaning and Integrity of the Degree*

As part of the WASC self-study, SJSU developed University Learning Goals, which were approved by the Academic Senate and signed by the President in February, 2013.

These goals stem on-going campus discussions that began in 2003, when the Academic Senate partnered with the Center for Faculty Development to launch the Education Person Dialogues. A taskforce representing a cross-section of the campus developed ULGs that represent the mission of SJSU and reflect the current scholarship on teaching and learning.

The ULGs, as well as the learning objectives of our general education program, can be found at [www.sjsu.edu/learninggoals](http://www.sjsu.edu/learninggoals).

## Integration

The ULGs have been mapped to Program Learning Outcomes for most undergraduate and graduate programs. In addition, student involvement has mapped the ULGs to their programs, and feature the ULGs on their webpages. The Career Center has developed materials and presentations for students that link the ULGs with the skills that employers want, and students from the Dwight Bentel Hall advertising program have developed a “Learn More, Earn More” campaign, highlighting how accomplishing the ULGs will help students succeed in their careers. However, awareness of the ULGs remains low and integration into curriculum is inconsistent. Although required, not all programs list their program learning outcomes on their webpages.

## University Learning Goals

### Specialized Knowledge

- Depth of knowledge required for a degree, as identified by its program learning outcomes.

### Broad Integrative Knowledge

- Mastery in each step of an investigative, creative or practical project (e.g. brainstorming, planning, formulating hypotheses or complex questions, designing, creating, completing, and communicating).
- An understanding of the implications of results or findings from a particular work in a societal context (e.g. social or economic implications of a scientific finding).
- Students graduating with a baccalaureate degree will have demonstrated an understanding of critical components of broad academic areas, the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences and their integration.

### Intellectual Skills

- Fluency in the use of specific theories, tools, technology and graphical representation.
- Skills and abilities necessary for life-long learning: critical and creative thinking, effective communication, conscientious information gathering and processing, mastery of quantitative methodologies, and the ability to engage effectively in collaborative activities.

### Applied Knowledge

- The ability to integrate theory, practice, and problem-solving to address practical issues.
- The ability to apply their knowledge and skills to new settings or in addressing complex problems.
- The ability to work productively as individuals and in groups

### Social and Global Responsibilities

- The ability to act intentionally and ethically to address a global or local problem in an informed manner with a multicultural and historical perspective and a clear understanding of societal and civic responsibilities.
- Diverse and global perspectives through engagement with the multidimensional SJSU community.

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