

# General Education Program at CSUSM

## Mission Statement

### Introduction

\*The GE Program has been developed in the context of the University's Mission, Vision and Values, and American Association of Colleges and Universities' Essential Learning Outcomes from the LEAP initiative, as per Executive Order 1065.

The General Education curriculum supports the development of CSUSM students' ~~growth~~ as effective communicators, critical thinkers and life-long learners. It also promotes their development into responsible adults and informed citizens capable of functioning in, and contributing to, a rapidly changing world. The University encourages students to examine moral and ethical issues; ~~the~~ the historical past and its relationship to the present; ~~the~~ human behavior, culture and language, values and institutions; ~~the~~ modern sciences and technology; ~~the~~ human diversity and issues that are both global and local. To this end, the GE program has been designed to facilitate students' interactions with these fundamental values.

The General Education program at CSUSM has four foundational goals. First, students will develop competency in the basic skills characteristic of an educated person: critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, information literacy, and communication, with an emphasis on developing clear, coherent, and effective writing skills. Second, students will cultivate their knowledge of human cultures and the natural and physical world. To this end, students will be exposed to and think critically about diversity; the interrelatedness of peoples in local, national and global contexts; the interaction of science, technology and society; and how organisms interact with their environments. Third, the GE program will foster students' growth in personal and social responsibility. Fourth, students will integrate this knowledge through their exposure to both disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to academic fields of study.

The aim of CSU San Marcos is to instill in its students the enthusiasm and curiosity, the healthy skepticism, and the habit of continuing inquiry that are central to all truly educated men and women. The goal is to enable them to realize their potential as enlightened individuals and productive members of society in a world of change.

\* approved by GEC, 9/22/11.

1 GEC – GE Learning Outcomes Placement on Syllabi

2  
3 Rationale: The WASC 2013 Handbook of Accreditation Criterion for Review 2.3 states the  
4 following:

5  
6 The institution’s student learning outcomes and standards of performance are clearly stated  
7 at the **course, program, and, as appropriate, institutional** level. These outcomes and standards  
8 are reflected in academic programs, policies, and curricula, and are aligned with advisement,  
9 library, and information and technology resources, and the wider learning environment.

10  
11 (Emphasis added.)

12 Criterion for Review 2.4 states the following:

13  
14 The institution’s student learning outcomes and standards of performance are developed by  
15 faculty and **widely shared among faculty, students**, staff, and (where appropriate) external  
16 stakeholders. The institution’s faculty take collective responsibility for establishing appropriate  
17 standards  
18 of performance and demonstrating through assessment the achievement of these standards.

19  
20 **GUIDELINE: Student learning outcomes are reflected in course syllabi.**

21  
22 (Emphasis added.)

23  
24 The stratification of learning objectives at the course and program level is a matter with which  
25 our campus has been busy for several years. Most faculty have been closely involved with  
26 development of learning objectives/outcomes in the programs of their own departments. The GE  
27 program is also a ‘program’ with learning objectives and outcomes which the GEC has been  
28 composing. In GE, learning outcomes at the Area level (e.g., Area A2, B2, C3, D, E) were  
29 completed and approved by Academic Senate in 2012 and 2013. GE learning outcomes at the  
30 program level are partially developed.

31  
32 In order for these learning outcomes to meet the criteria for review of WASC, the GEC sees it as  
33 necessary to make it policy that these learning outcomes be posted in syllabi of all GE courses.

34  
35 **Policy:**

36  
37 The syllabus or first-day handout of a general education course at CSUSM must include the  
38 following:

- 39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44
1. A web link to the online location of the GE Program learning outcomes (when available);
  2. A web link to the online location of the GE learning outcomes for which the course is certified;
  3. A list of GE Program learning outcomes which are addressed in the course;
  4. GE Area learning outcomes in the area(s) for which the course is certified.

45  
46  
47

1. ~~GE Program learning outcomes~~
2. ~~GE Area learning outcomes in the area(s) for which the course is certified.~~

48 The campus syllabus guidelines shall be updated to include this directive.  
49  
50 The GE learning outcomes at area and program levels shall be posted in a public place on the  
51 campus web server in a format which is easily copied and pasted for use in individual syllabi.  
52