

A NEW STUDENT'S GUIDE TO STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AT CSUCI

Welcome to CSU Channel Islands! As a new student at CSUCI, you are about to embark on an exciting journey that will endow you with an vast array of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will greatly facilitate success in both your personal and professional lives. Central to this journey are CSUCI's outstanding academic programs. As you know, CSU Channel Islands is the first California public university to be established in the 21st century. CSUCI's faculty have been asked to design forward-looking academic programs to meet the needs of the new millennium, and they have done just that.

At the core of these academic programs is a set of student learning outcomes (or SLOs). SLOs are brief statements that describe what a student will know and be able to do at the end of a course or academic program. They are typically expressed in terms of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values, and have been prepared by our faculty for every course and academic program offered at CSUCI.

In the pages that follow you will find a pair of SLOs derived from CSUCI's mission statement, as well as the SLOs for the CSUCI general education program and for each of our majors. I encourage you to study these SLOs carefully as they will assist you in the selection of your major and guide your study as you progress toward your degree at CSUCI.

Please accept my congratulations on your decision to continue your education at the baccalaureate level. We are very pleased that you have decided to attend CSUCI, and look forward to traveling with you on the journey to your bachelor's degree.

Sincerely yours,



Dawn Neuman
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Placing students at the center of the educational experience, California State University Channel Islands provides undergraduate and graduate education that facilitates learning within and across disciplines through integrative approaches, emphasizes experiential and service learning, and graduates students with multicultural and international perspectives.

CSUCI MISSION-BASED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

CSUCI graduates will possess an education of sufficient breadth and depth to appreciate and interpret the natural, social and aesthetic worlds and to address the highly complex issues facing societies. Graduates will be able to:

- Identify and describe the modern world and issues facing societies from multiple perspectives including those within and across disciplines, cultures and nations (when appropriate); and
- Analyze issues, and develop and convey to others solutions to problems using the methodologies, tools and techniques of an academic discipline.

GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

General Education requirements are designed to assure that all graduates of the University, whatever their major, have acquired essential skills, experiences, and a broad range of knowledge appropriate to educated people within a society. Students who complete the General Education program examine the modern world and issues facing societies from multiple perspectives and translate knowledge into judgment and action in the form of civic engagement.

- **Goal 1.** Evaluate issues and integrate ideas from multiple perspectives, including cultural, national and international, and disciplinary perspectives, and identify actions consistent with their own civic responsibility. They will be able to:

Outcome 1.1 Integrate content, ideas, and approaches from: (a) multicultural perspectives, (b) national and international perspectives, and (c) integrative perspectives across disciplines.

Outcome 1.2 Take individual and collective actions which can address issues of public concern.

→ **Goal 2.** Identify clear, logical, and creative arguments. They are able to:

Outcome 2.1 Reason inductively and deductively and from a variety of perspectives.

Outcome 2.2 Deliberate with others and present arguments clearly, logically, and creatively.

→ **Goal 3.** Find and critically examine information. They are able to:

Outcome 3.1 Access needed information effectively and efficiently.

Outcome 3.3 Explain the economic, legal, social, and ethical issues surrounding the use of information.

Outcome 3.2 Evaluate information and its sources critically.

→ **Goal 4.** Communicate effectively using a variety of formats. They are able to:

Outcome 4.1 Speak and present effectively in various contexts.

Outcome 4.3 Use relevant tools in various contexts to present and/or integrate ideas.

Outcome 4.2 Write effectively in various forms.

→ **Goal 5.** Understand the physical universe and its life forms, scientific methodology, and mathematical concepts, and use quantitative reasoning. They are able to:

Outcome 5.1 Conduct planned investigations using the scientific method to reach reasoned conclusions.

Outcome 5.3 Use graphs, tables, etc. to represent and explain scientific and mathematical models.

Outcome 5.2 Solve problems using mathematical methods.

Outcome 5.4 Make connections between important/core/key concepts (or big ideas) in the natural sciences to describe/explain natural phenomena.

→ **Goal 6.** Cultivate intellect, imagination, sensibility and sensitivity through the study of philosophy, literature, languages, and the arts. They are able to:

Outcome 6.1 Analyze creative human products and ideas.

Outcome 6.3 Create original and imaginative works in philosophy, literature, language, and/or the arts.

Outcome 6.2 Articulate personal thoughts and emotions when encountering human creations and ideas.

→ **Goal 7.** Understand social, cultural, political, and economic institutions and their historical backgrounds, as well as human behavior and the principles of social interaction. They are able to:

Outcome 7.1 Convey how issues relevant to social, cultural, political, contemporary/historical, economic, educational, or psychological realities interact with each other.

Outcome 7.2 Discuss how social sciences conceive and study human experience.

Outcome 7.3 Use social science methods to explain or predict individual and collective human behavior.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR CSUCI'S UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

APPLIED PHYSICS

*Students graduating with a major in **Applied Physics** will be able to:*

- Explain the fundamental concepts of physics;
- Analyze and solve problems by applying information in a novel context;
- Formulate hypotheses and devise and perform experiments to test hypotheses as individuals and in a team;
- Apply current technology and scientific methodologies to analyze and solve problems in various scientific, professional and community settings;
- Use and critically evaluate current technical/scientific research literature, online information, and information related to scientific issues in the mass media;
- Communicate in written and oral forms key concepts in physics and general scientific issues with interested citizens and professionals;
- Work co-operatively as part of a research team; and
- Learn independently and maintain life-long learning in the sciences and technology.

ART

*Students graduating with a major in **Art** will be able to:*

- Demonstrate methods of critical analysis through the analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of works of art;
- Demonstrate informed understanding and appreciation of the role of art in contemporary society as well as throughout history;
- Create and express personal ideas and opinions through artwork in response to diverse range of global events;
- Explore the integration of traditional art techniques and materials with emerging art technologies;
- Develop communication skills needed to articulate their conscious artistic intentions, and express coherent aesthetics;
- Demonstrate familiarity with high-tech tools while working with emerging digital art technologies;
- Demonstrate their preparation for professional artistic practice through the refinement of artistic concept, narrative and technique;

- Complete in-depth work in specific media and demonstrate advanced competency in artistic production; and
- Analyze a diverse range of career opportunities in their selected artistic discipline.

BIOLOGY

*Students graduating with a major in **Biology** will be able to:*

- Explain the basic structures and fundamental processes of life at molecular, cellular and organismal levels;
- Identify the evolutionary processes that lead to adaptation and biological diversity;
- Describe the relationship between life forms and their environment and ecosystems;
- Collect, organize, analyze, interpret and present quantitative and qualitative data and incorporate them into the broader context of biological knowledge;
- Effectively apply current technology and scientific methodologies for problem solving;
- Find, select and evaluate various types of scientific information including primary research articles, mass media sources and world-wide web information; and
- Communicate effectively in written and oral forms.

BUSINESS

*Students graduating with a major in **Business** will be able to:*

- Demonstrate critical thinking skills by identifying, evaluating, synthesizing, and presenting issues related to accounting, economics, finance, information systems, management and marketing;
- Demonstrate communication skills by writing excellent reports and papers and making effective oral presentations in English; and
- Demonstrate collaboration skills by working effectively with others in group settings - both inside and outside the classroom.

CHEMISTRY

*Students graduating with a major in **Chemistry** will be able to:*

- Explain the fundamental concepts of Chemistry;
- Evaluate a problem and appropriately apply the fundamental concepts of Chemistry to the problem;
- Formulate hypotheses and devise and perform experiments to test a hypothesis as individuals and in a team;
- Explain key concepts in chemistry effectively through oral and written communication; and
- Interpret and evaluate the chemical literature.

CHICANA/O STUDIES: TRANSBORDER COMMUNITIES

*Students graduating with a major in **Chicano Studies: Transborder Communities** will be able to:*

- Demonstrate knowledge of the history and culture of people of Mexican and Latin American origins in the United States, specifically within the region of Southern California;
- Examine gender as a central theme of the study of the Chicana/o community;
- Analyze the literary expression of Chicanas/os and Latinas/os;
- Distinguish variations within Chicana/o communities in respect to class, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, and sexuality;
- Identify theoretical questions informing Chicana/o Studies;
- Summarize the ideas of major thinkers who have influenced this area of study in the past and present;
- Identify, locate, evaluate, synthesize and present current research and information on issues informing the experience of Chicanas/os and Latinas/os in Southern California and across the nation;
- Summarize demographic trends in the United States of the past, present, and for the future;
- Discuss the major theories and concepts of Chicana/o Studies and its subfields;
- Effectively present research findings; and
- Demonstrate effective writing skills.

COMMUNICATION

*Students graduating with a major in **Communication** will be able to:*

- Interact with others in one-on-one and small/large group settings, and with audiences of diverse memberships;
- Collaborate effectively with others;
- Analyze messages critically for content, purpose, organization, argument, style and meaning;
- Analyze conflicts and work through resolutions;
- Differentiate ethical dimensions of health, environmental or organizational messages and estimate their impact upon a given community; and
- Choose an optimal means to communicate depending upon the audience, situation and by understanding the relevance, limitations and effectiveness of different communication technologies.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

*Students graduating with a major in **Computer Science** will be able to:*

- Demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving skills by identifying, evaluating, analyzing and presenting fundamental software solutions and their applications;
- Demonstrate the knowledge of current computing practices and broad technology use in industry and society, including a working knowledge of software development techniques;

- Be cognizant of emerging new technologies and industrial practices connected to the computer industry;
- Demonstrate communication, research and cooperation skills by working effectively with others in interdisciplinary group settings - both inside and outside the classroom; and
- Demonstrate a sense of exploration that enables them to pursue rewarding careers in high- tech and bio-tech industries with life-learning.

EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES

*Students graduating with a major in **Early Childhood Studies** will be able to:*

- Teach in and administer programs serving young children (with and without disabilities) from birth through eight and their families;
- Actively engage students in their learning;
- Teach all subjects in their area of specialty and link content to pedagogy;
- Acknowledge and support diversity of languages and cultures in and among children and families;
- Meet the diverse needs of all children including those with special needs; and
- Be reflective and deliberative practitioners, integrating research, theory, and effective practices into their teaching.

ECONOMICS

*Students graduating with a major in **Economics** will be able to:*

- Define the concept of scarcity and explain the role of economics in efficient resource use;
- Identify situations in which economic analysis is applicable, as well as those outside the realm of economic thought;
- Address issues and problems from not only the economic perspective, but also from other perspectives as appropriate to the situation;
- Identify the assumptions of economic theory and explain the consequences of violating those assumptions;
- Apply the techniques of marginalist decision-making in the definition and solution of economic problems;
- Explain the determinants of aggregate economic activity and their implications for both private and public sector decisions;
- Explain the interactions between consumers and firms in a market-based economy;
- Identify, locate, evaluate, synthesize and present current research and information on economic issues;
- Formulate testable hypotheses concerning economic problems and issues;
- Collect, organize, analyze, interpret and present quantitative and qualitative data;
- Use current, technological tools in the collection, organization, analysis and interpretation of data; and
- Communicate in written and oral forms with interested citizens and professionals on economic issues.

ENGLISH

*Students graduating with a major in **English** will be able to:*

- Express themselves effectively in writing and speech, including appropriate use of English grammar and usage conventions;
- Examine texts, issues or problems in the discipline from multiple perspectives (multicultural, interdisciplinary, international, experiential, theoretical and/or educational);
- Effectively use current scholarship in the field (literary analysis, linguistics studies, applied research, etc.);
- Analyze a range of texts, representative of genres, periods, ethnicities and genders;
- Articulate an understanding of relationships between the field of English and other disciplines; and
- Reflect substantively on their growth over time with an accurate perception of their performance in the program.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

*Students graduating with a major in **ESRM** will be able to:*

- Identify the scientific, social scientific and humanistic aspects of environmental issues;
- Identify, locate, evaluate, synthesize and present current research and information on environmental issues;

- Define environmental problems from the perspectives of both environmental science and resource management;
- Identify possible causes and propose solutions to environmental problems from the perspectives of both environmental science and resource management;
- Evaluate proposed solutions to environmental problems from the perspectives of both environmental science and resource management;
- Use the methodologies of the natural and social sciences to formulate testable hypotheses concerning environmental problems and issues;
- Collect, organize, analyze, interpret and present quantitative and qualitative data; and
- Make use of current, technological tools in the collection, organization, analysis and interpretation of data.

HISTORY

*Students graduating with a major in **History** will be able to:*

- Show good understanding and knowledge of the history of North America;
- Show good understanding and knowledge of global history in other regions of the world;
- Demonstrate good knowledge and problem-solving skills in analyzing contemporary and historical events;
- Demonstrate good communication skills in oral and written forms; and
- Command good skills in historical research, analysis, and presentations.

LIBERAL STUDIES

*Students graduating with a major in **Liberal Studies** will be able to:*

- Effectively evaluate oral or written communication for accuracy of content, logic of argument, and clarity of reasoning;
- Demonstrate proficiency in computer literacy, information literacy, and technological literacy;
- Analyze socio-cultural issues including race, class, ethnicity, gender, and language and discuss societal issues that may arise;
- Demonstrate content area knowledge related to their program of study and intended career goals; and
- Demonstrate content area knowledge related to the CCTC content standards for the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential for graduates from the Teaching and Learning Option.

MATHEMATICS

*Students graduating with a major in **Mathematics** will be able to:*

- Demonstrate critical thinking, problem solving skills and ability to use advanced mathematical methods by identifying, evaluating, classifying, analyzing, and synthesizing data and abstract ideas in various contexts and situations;
- Demonstrate the knowledge of current mathematical applications, computing practices and use of broad technology in industry, science and education;

- Demonstrate ability to use modern software, abstract thinking, and mathematical practices connected to scientific and industrial problems, and demonstrate these skills that are currently used by technologies in society and education;
- Perform skills that enable them to evaluate, propose and convey novel solutions to scientific and business problems, etc;
- Demonstrate cooperation skills by working effectively with others in interdisciplinary group-settings - both inside and outside the classroom; and
- Demonstrate a sense of exploration that enables students to pursue lifelong learning and currency in their careers in mathematics, statistics, education, high-tech and bio-tech industries.

NURSING

*Students graduating with a major in **Nursing** will be able to:*

- Function within the professional nursing roles as a provider and a coordinator of care, a health educator, an advocate and as a member of the nursing profession in a variety of institutional settings;
- Collaborate as a member or as a leader of a health care team in the planning, implementation and improvement of health care services consistent with the health needs of a diverse and multicultural society;
- Follow the nursing process by assisting clients, families and communities to promote an optimum level of wellness, sustain life, recover from disease or injury in acute, long term care, institutional and community settings;

- Function as a successful professional by a commitment to self-growth, development and lifelong learning; and
- For generic students meet the eligibility requirements to successfully pass the nursing licensure examination (NCLEX); and For generic and RN to BSN students meet the eligibility requirements for the California Public Health Nurse Certificate.

PERFORMING ARTS

*Students graduating with a major in **Performing Arts** will be able to:*

- Perform in one or more of the Performing Arts emphases of dance, music, and theatre;
- Demonstrate critical thinking through analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of written, visual, and audio texts in an interdisciplinary context;
- Understand and appreciate the roles of the performing arts in contemporary as well as historical cultures and societies;
- Work collaboratively with people from a diverse range of artistic and cultural backgrounds;
- Express themselves effectively in written, physical, and spoken forms in response to a variety of personal, local, global, and historical events; and
- Apply multiple theoretical perspectives to their own performances and the performances of others.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

*Students graduating with a major in **Political Science** will be able to:*

- Write clearly and with purpose on issues of international and domestic politics and public policy;
- Participate as a civically engaged member of society;
- Analyze political and policy problems and formulate policy options;
- Use electronic and traditional library resources to research key local, state, national and international policy issues and present results;
- Demonstrate competency with basic tools underlying modern social science research including competency in statistics and qualitative analysis;
- Demonstrate critical thinking, including the ability to form an argument, detect fallacies, and marshal evidence, about key issues of public policy and politics;
- Discuss the major theories and concepts of political science and its subfields; and
- Deliver thoughtful and well articulated presentations of research findings.

PSYCHOLOGY

*Students graduating with a major in **Psychology** will be able to:*

- Demonstrate familiarity with the major theoretical approaches, findings and historical trends in psychology;

- Demonstrate understanding, skill and ability in the use of major research methods in psychology, including design, data analysis and interpretation;
- Apply the appropriate psychological principles and knowledge to personal, social and organizational issues;
- Demonstrate information competence and the ability to use computers and other technology for multiple purposes;
- Use and respect skeptical inquiry, critical thinking and the scientific approach to understanding behavior;
- Recognize, articulate and understand the value of the complexity of cultural diversity;
- Express themselves effectively in written and oral communication; and
- Understand themselves and others in cultural context and develop interpersonal skills for diverse settings over the lifespan.

SOCIOLOGY

*Students graduating with a major in **Sociology** will be able to:*

- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of evidence in the social sciences and how to conduct both quantitative and qualitative sociological research;
- Demonstrate effective communication, written and oral, about the field of sociology;
- Demonstrate substantive knowledge of core areas and controversies in sociology and the ability to think critically about them; and
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history and evolution of the discipline of sociology.

SPANISH

*Students graduating with a major in **Spanish** will be able to:*

- Achieve intermediate-high to advanced language proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing (proficiency levels are defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages); and
- Demonstrate a reasonable understanding of the ways of thinking (ideas, beliefs, attitudes, values, philosophies), behavioral practices (patterns of social interactions), and the cultural products (for example, art, history, literature) of the Spanish-speaking world.