

First-Year Philosophy (Abbreviated Version)

California State University San Marcos is dedicated to helping first-year students make a successful transition to the University. We strive to connect our first-year students with the campus community, the faculty, their fellow students, and services that support their success. We are committed to creating learning environments – inside and outside the classroom – in which our students begin to cultivate a vision of their own academic goals, career aspirations, and life’s purposes. Our goal is to enable our first-year students to succeed at the University and to contribute positively to society by acquiring foundational skills, knowledge, and dispositions.

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First-Year Philosophy and Goals (Expanded Version)

California State University San Marcos is dedicated to helping first-year students make a successful transition to the University. We strive to connect our first-year students with the campus community, the faculty, their fellow students, and services that support their success. We are committed to creating learning environments – inside and outside the classroom – in which our students begin to cultivate a vision of their own academic goals, career aspirations, and life’s purposes. Our goal is to enable our first-year students to succeed at the University and to contribute positively to society by acquiring the following foundational skills, knowledge, and dispositions:

Foundational skill goals:

- Mathematical/quantitative
- Written communication
- Oral communication
- Critical thinking
- Computer competency
- Information literacy
- Time management and University-level study skills
- Financial literacy
- An academic plan aligned with personal and professional goals

Knowledge goals:

- Basic familiarity with a language other than English
- Understanding of difference and cultural diversity
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of a University student
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of the University, and the availability of campus resources

Dispositional goals:

- An openness to and curiosity about the breadth and diversity of human knowledge and experience
- Appreciation of diverse viewpoints and experiences
- Engagement in campus life and learning opportunities outside the classroom
- Engagement in the academic community; development of a sense of responsibility for their academic learning
- Understanding the importance of civic engagement within the context of local, national and global issues