

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SU San Marcos will make every effort to preserve the following graduation requirements for students subject to this catalog:

I. Unit Requirement

The number of semester units necessary for a bachelor's degree is listed below. At least forty (40) units shall be in upper-division credit and no more than seventy (70) units may be transferred from a community college. Six (6) units of physical activity coursework and four (4) units of intercollegiate sports activity will be allowed towards a degree at CSUSM.

Bachelor of Arts Degree	124
Bachelor of Science Degree	124-132

II. Major or Minor Requirements

While individual programs have unique requirements, all majors must include twenty-four (24) units exclusive of units used to meet the General Education requirement. At least twelve (12) units in the major shall be upper-division courses; the maximum number of units shall be determined by the discipline. Please refer to the curricula section in this catalog for specific major or minor requirements.

III. Residence Requirements

A minimum of thirty (30) units must be completed in residence at CSU San Marcos, of which twenty-four (24) units must be

upper-division and twelve (12) of these must be in the major. Extension credit, including open university, credit by examination, and transfer credit, do not fulfill the residency requirement.

IV. Grade-Point Average Requirement

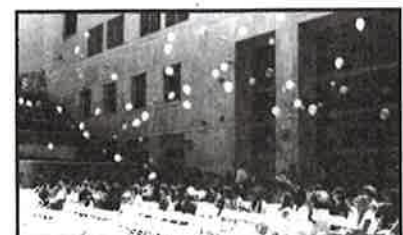
The following three grade-point averages, each 2.0 (C average) or higher, are required for graduation:

- A. A cumulative grade-point average, which includes both transferred and CSU San Marcos coursework;
- B. A CSU San Marcos grade-point average;
- C. A grade-point average in the major, at CSU San Marcos and in coursework accepted as transfer credit for the major from other institutions.

V. U.S. History, Constitution, and American Ideals Requirement

California law establishes as a graduation requirement that students demonstrate competence in the fields of American history and government, the Constitution of the United States, and the processes of state and local government as established in California. Students may fulfill this requirement by completing Political Science (PSCI) 100 and either History (HIST) 230 or 231.

Students transferring from other accredited institutions can be certified to have met all or a portion of this requirement. Students needing to fulfill only the California state and local government may do so by taking either



Political Science (PSCI) 415 or History (HIST) 347.

If a challenge examination is available for a course that fulfills this requirement, passing such an examination carries credit for the course and fulfills this graduation requirement. However, only courses taken to meet this requirement may be counted towards the fulfillment of the General Education requirement.

VI. Graduation Writing Assessment and All-University Writing Requirements

All CSU students must demonstrate competency in writing skills as a requirement for graduation. At CSUSM, students complete the graduation writing assessment through the All-University Writing Requirement. This requirement mandates that every course at the University must have a writing component of at least 2,500 words (approximately 10 pages). The All-University Writing Requirement can be achieved in a variety of ways, depending on the course.

The University maintains a well-staffed Writing Center to assist all students with their writing projects. More information regarding the center may be found on page E-1.

VII. Language Other Than English

Before graduating, CSUSM students must demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English in any one of the following ways:

- having completed the equivalent of an intermediate level course in a language other than English at the college level, with a C grade or better;
- demonstrating Stage 3 proficiency level according to the

California Foreign Language Competency Project guidelines;

- having successfully received a score of 3 or better on the Advanced Placement Foreign Language Examination.

Certain courses used to meet this requirement may be used to partially satisfy three (3) units of the lower-division General Education requirement in the Arts and Humanities area.

CSUSM accepts American Sign Language (ASL) in fulfillment of this requirement. Students are advised to contact the Language Proficiency Assessor at 750-4127 for information regarding ways in which ASL and other languages can be demonstrated for proficiency.

VIII. Computer Competency Requirement

All students must fulfill the CSUSM basic computer competency requirement by the end of their second semester of attendance. Students will be required to demonstrate the following competencies:

- knowledge of booting a personal computer
- ability to recognize basic computer terminology
- knowledge of how to create, find, and access a directory (IBM PC) or a folder (Macintosh)
- ability to use a word processor
- ability to use at least two other computer applications such as a spreadsheet, a database, a statistical package, a graphics application, and/or a desktop publishing application
- knowledge of computer ethics issues, especially regarding copyright issues, information rights, and computer viruses

Students may fulfill the requirement in several ways such as:

- passing the CSU San Marcos computer competency examination
- obtaining a grade of C or better in one of the following CSUSM courses:

CS 101 PSYC 300
CS 301 VSAR 302
MUSC 302

- Obtaining a grade of C or better in one of the many approved courses offered at local community colleges, completed within two years of first enrollment at CSUSM.

Students who wish to prepare for the computer competency examination may take advantage of self-paced tutorials and workshops offered at the University.

Upper-division transfer students will not be permitted to register for their third semester of classes until they are certified for computer competency.

IX. General Education Requirement — The San Marcos Experience

The General Education Requirement is composed of forty-eight (48) units distributed into five areas of study. Nine (9) upper-division units must be counted outside the student's major (except for Liberal Studies majors, who may include these units in their major program). The General Education program at CSUSM is known as The San Marcos Experience.

The San Marcos Experience is an innovative set of core and general courses that reflect the values embodied in the University's Mission Statement and manifested in the faculty, staff, administration, and student body of this institu-

tion. It is an inclusive curriculum designed to help graduates of CSUSM thrive in a global community that is rich in diversity and intense with possibilities. The San Marcos Experience focuses on the basic skills, information, knowledge, and attitudes that citizens need to make wise, informed, just, critical, and moral decisions throughout their lives.

Features of The San Marcos Experience are:

- A global/international perspective
- Written and oral communication across the curriculum
- Critical thinking skills emphasized
- Small classes and close contact with the faculty
- Information literacy throughout the curriculum
- The use of technology in all classes
- Active learning in courses in the program
- A comprehensive learning assistance program
- Comprehensive advising
- Interdisciplinary courses

AREA A: BASIC SKILLS

Nine (9) units in basic skills distributed as follows:

- Three (3) units of *oral communication*.

GEO 102

- Three (3) units of *written communication*.

GEW 101

- Three (3) units of *critical thinking*. Select among:

CS 101
HIST 101
PSYC 110
MATH 110
SOC 202

AREA B: MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

Twelve (12) units in mathematics and science distributed as follows:

- Three (3) units in *physical science*. Students must clear the ELM requirement prior to enrollment in these classes. Select among:

GES 101
CHEM 150*
PHYS 201

**Biological science majors must take CHEM 150; computer science and chemistry majors must take PHYS 201.*

- Three (3) units in *biology*. Select among:

GES 102
BIOL 201*

**Biology and chemistry majors must take BIOL 201.*

- Three (3) units in *mathematics*. Students must clear the ELM requirement prior to enrollment in these classes. Select among:

GEM 100	MATH 162*
MATH 120	MATH 165*
CS 111*	MATH 166*
MATH 132*	MATH 212
MATH 160*	MATH 260

**Biological sciences, business administration, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, and students with appropriate background in mathematics are encouraged to select from these courses.*

- Three (3) units of approved *science and/or mathematics* courses at the upper-division level. Select from among:

BIOL 305	BIOL 375
BIOL 311	BUS 333
BIOL 316	CHEM 303
BIOL 321	CHEM 311
BIOL 322	CHEM 312
BIOL 323	CHEM 313
BIOL 325	CHEM 314
BIOL 327	CS 301
BIOL 328	MATH 303
BIOL 336	MATH 304
BIOL 338	MATH 330
BIOL 362	MATH 404