

2.2 *All degrees—undergraduate and graduate—awarded by the institution are clearly defined in terms of entry-level requirements and in terms of levels of student achievement necessary for graduation that represent more than simply an accumulation of courses or credits.*

Guideline: *Competencies required for graduation are reflected in course syllabi for both General Education and the major.*

Evidence:

- SSU admits all eligible students in accord with statewide mandates for matriculation in a CSU campus. Prospective students can find admission criteria listed in The [General Catalogue](#) and the Office of [Admissions and Records](#).
- According to SSU's [Course Outline Policy](#), faculty must identify course goals and objectives, grading policy, course requirements and are strongly encouraged to link their General Education courses to the mission, goals and objectives of General Education.
- [Academic departments](#) and programs each have their own websites that describe specific requirements for graduation in their respective field of inquiry. Under our [revamped academic review process](#), departments are expected to integrate their discipline-dependent courses into a coherent program.
- Currently, SSU is revising its [general education program](#) in an effort to make it more coherent and meaningful. We are testing a pilot freshman year experience (FYE) that combines the teaching of critical thinking and composition through an interdisciplinary examination of citizenship and globalization. After assessing the pilot this year and next, the university will make a final decision on its status.

◆ *Baccalaureate programs engage students in an integrated course of study of sufficient breadth and depth to prepare them for work, citizenship, and a fulfilling life. These programs also ensure the development of core learning abilities and competencies including, but not limited to, college-level written and oral communication; college-level quantitative skills; information literacy; and the habit of critical analysis of data and argument. In addition, baccalaureate programs actively foster an understanding of diversity; civic responsibility; the ability to work with others; and the capacity to engage in lifelong learning.*

Guideline: *The institution has a program of General Education that is integrated throughout the curriculum, including at the upper division level, consisting of a minimum of 45 semester credit hours (or the equivalent), together with significant study in depth in a given area of knowledge (typically described in terms of a major). Baccalaureate programs also ensure breadth for all students in the areas of cultural and aesthetic, social and political, as well as scientific and technical knowledge expected of educated*

persons in this society. Finally, students are required to engage in an in-depth, focused, and sustained program of study as part of their baccalaureate programs.

Evidence:

- California State University system-wide executive order [595](#) stipulates that all incoming students must complete at least 48 units in an integrated program of general education, which insures basic competencies in such areas as quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and composition. Our program in [General Education](#) meets or exceeds this executive order.
- On March 6, 2003, the Faculty Senate unanimously approved an updated statement on [The Mission, Goals and Objectives of General Education at Sonoma State University](#). The statement represents a comprehensive effort to collect in one place the multiple teaching goals and learning outcomes of our program in General Education. In a word, its mission is ‘to investigate the complexity of human experience in a diverse natural and social world and to promote informed and ethical participation as citizens of the world’.
- In its present incarnation, General Education at SSU consists of two distinct tracks, among which students must choose. One track is what we call the [University-Wide Option](#). It consists of 51 units spread over five thematic categories: 1) communication and critical thinking; 2) natural sciences and mathematics; 3) Arts and Humanities; 4) Social Sciences; and 5) Integrated Person. Students take at least one course in [Ethnic Studies](#) and a minimum of nine units at the upper-division level.
- The other general education track is in the [Hutchins School of Liberal Studies](#). Here students complete an interdisciplinary program of 48 units, which consists of four interdisciplinary seminars of 12 units each. In this track, students also must take a course in quantitative reasoning. Each student receives an in-depth written evaluation of his or her performance at the end of each semester.
- Students must declare a major no later than the end of their second year of matriculation. (Please see [Academic Advising Policies](#).) Each [department and program](#) is responsible for organizing its required slate of courses to insure that students receive an up-to-date familiarity with regnant disciplinary standards of knowledge.
- ◆ *Graduate programs are consistent with the purpose and character of their institutions: are in keeping with the expectations of their respective disciplines and professions; and are described through nomenclature that is appropriate to the several levels of graduate and professional degrees offered. Graduate curricula are visibly structured to include active involvement with the literature of the field and ongoing student engagement in research and/or appropriate high-level professional practice and*

training experiences. Additionally, admission criteria to graduate programs normally include a baccalaureate degree in an appropriate undergraduate program.

Guideline: *The institution employs at least one full-time faculty for each Graduate degree program offered.*

Evidence:

- SSU offers fourteen [graduate programs](#). Each program has at least one full-time graduate advisor who is also a permanent member of the faculty. On our website we offer an in depth [reference page](#) to aid prospective graduate students make their decision on where to pursue their post baccalaureate education.
- Our [graduate programs](#) seek to offer students specialized treatment of academic topics or in professional programs. We try to gear these graduate offerings to the working professional, providing them with a flexible course of study, including night classes, hybrid on-line classes and the possibility to work independently with qualified faculty.
- Minimal admission requirements to any of our graduate programs, which accord with Title 5, Chapter 1, Subchapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations, include the following: an academically pertinent baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university; a 2.5 cumulative grade point average in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted; and be in good academic standing at the last college or university attended. (Please see page 14 in the [General Catalogue](#).) [Specific graduate programs](#) may expect students to satisfy additional requirements, per the field of study.