



# Santa Clara University

## Undergraduate Learning Goals Established March 6, 2016

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**Our institutional commitment:** Santa Clara University will transform students' lives through a personalized Jesuit education that integrates rigorous study with high-impact experiential learning and fosters critical, creative, and reflective thinking; complex problem solving; excellent communication skills; and the application of knowledge for the betterment of society.<sup>1</sup>

Beyond acquiring deep knowledge and skills in their chosen field of study, Santa Clara students develop lifelong habits of mind and heart that include the following:

### I. **Development of Intellectual Abilities and Lifelong Learning Skills**

Specifically, students will develop competencies<sup>2</sup> in:

- a) **Critical, Creative, and Reflective Thinking** - the ability to identify, reflect upon, evaluate, integrate, and apply different types of information and knowledge to form independent judgments.
- b) **Quantitative Reasoning** - analytical and logical thinking and the habit of drawing conclusions based on quantitative information.
- c) **Written Communication** - the development and expression of ideas in writing.
- d) **Oral Communication** - a prepared, purposeful presentation designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the listener's attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors.
- e) **Information Literacy** - the ability to identify, locate, evaluate and effectively and responsibly use and share information.

II. **Engagement with Diverse Communities, Locally and Globally**– Students will develop the dispositions and abilities to participate meaningfully within diverse communities, and as engaged citizens and globally-minded professionals.

III. **Promotion of a More Humane, Just, and Sustainable World** – Students will develop social justice values and make choices to act in light of the world's greatest needs.

IV. **Cultivation of Ethics and a Life of Meaning and Purpose** – Students will engage in ethical reflection and self-examination of their life's meaning and purpose, and these will inform their values and actions.

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<sup>1</sup> The University Mission and Vision highlight many essential goals of undergraduate education. These are reinforced in strategic planning documents, the goals of the centers of excellence, academic units, and student life. **SCU Mission Statement:** The University pursues its vision by creating an academic community that educates the whole person within the Jesuit, Catholic tradition, making student learning our central focus, continuously improving our curriculum and co-curriculum, strengthening our scholarship and creative work, and serving the communities of which we are a part in Silicon Valley and around the world. **SCU Vision Statement:** Santa Clara University will educate citizens and leaders of competence, conscience, and compassion and cultivate knowledge and faith to build a more humane, just, and sustainable world.

<sup>2</sup> These intellectual abilities and skills are identified by WASC as five core competencies for which all institutions must develop standards and provide evidence of in its students at or near the time of graduation.