

Welcome to Cal Poly

A Message from President Baker

As Cal Poly embarks upon its second century, we are firmly committed to the values and traditions that distinguished our first century, while continually improving our programs to be sure our students are educated to respond thoughtfully to the complex and challenging needs of society.

Undergraduate Emphasis: As a predominantly undergraduate university, Cal Poly is known nationally for the quality of its baccalaureate degree programs in a variety of disciplines. We also offer outstanding masters degree programs.

Residential Campus: Cal Poly is a residential campus. Our students find that the campus environment affords them time, resources and settings in which to discover values and interests – whether in the classroom, clubs, residence halls, or other extracurricular activities.

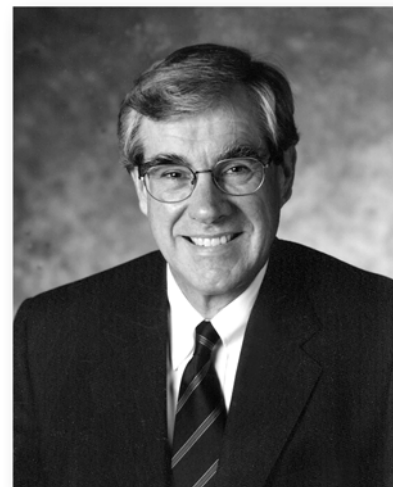
Polytechnic Mission: At Cal Poly, we recognize that the liberal arts and sciences provide a critical and indispensable foundation for education in all academic disciplines and for the broader life of the University, as a living and learning community. At the same time, from its inception, Cal Poly has given particular emphasis to instruction in polytechnic disciplines. We provide opportunities for students in all programs to become familiar with the worlds of science and technology. We also prepare many of our graduates for careers in applied, scientific and technological fields.

Information Technology to Support Teaching and Learning: Cal Poly is a leader in the use of information technology to enhance teaching and learning. Students and faculty have access to Internet resources, to course information, to library resources and to advanced software tools 24 hours a day. The Internet also permits us to offer courses to students temporarily off campus for various reasons and to provide continuing education for practicing professionals.

Educational Philosophy: Cal Poly is committed to excellence in teaching and learning. In all disciplines we seek to provide a student-centered, learner-focused education, facilitated by a low student-teacher ratio in classes conducted primarily by full-time, regular faculty. The phrase, "Learn by Doing," also captures an essential quality of a Cal Poly education. At Cal Poly, classroom instruction is complemented by practical, "hands-on" learning in the laboratory, the studio and out in the field.

Diversity: As a campus we welcome a diversity of ideas and cultures and we encourage international and multi-cultural education in order to prepare students for successful participation and competition in a diverse world and a global workforce. We believe that diversity of our students, faculty, and staff enlivens and enriches the University educational environment.

Cal Poly has at its core an educational philosophy that will sustain us far into the future. Of course, these values alone do not constitute our greatest strength. That strength rests in the quality of the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends—who make up, and who, indeed, are the University.



Warren J. Baker
President

Mission Statement

Cal Poly fosters teaching, scholarship, and service in a learn-by-doing environment where students and faculty are partners in discovery. As a polytechnic university, Cal Poly promotes the application of theory to practice. As a comprehensive institution, Cal Poly provides a balanced education in the arts, sciences, and technology, while encouraging cross-disciplinary and co-curricular experiences. As an academic community, Cal Poly values free inquiry, cultural and intellectual diversity, mutual respect, civic engagement, and social and environmental responsibility.

University Learning Objectives (ULOs)

The University Learning Objectives (ULOs) are the knowledge and the skills that every Cal Poly student should have by the time of graduation. They are what every student needs for success in a career and in life, particularly within the context of a changing, global society. Mastering these objectives will empower students with core knowledge and transferable skills, and prepare them to encounter challenging issues as leaders in the twenty-first century.

All students who complete an undergraduate or graduate program at Cal Poly should be able to:

- Think critically and creatively
- Communicate effectively
- Demonstrate expertise in a scholarly discipline and understand that discipline in relation to the larger world of the arts, sciences, and technology
- Work productively as individuals and in groups
- Use their knowledge and skills to make a positive contribution to society
- Make reasoned decisions based on an understanding of ethics, a respect for diversity, and an awareness of issues related to sustainability
- Engage in lifelong learning

Diversity Learning Objectives (DLOs)

All students who complete an undergraduate or graduate program at Cal Poly should be able to make reasoned decisions based on a respect and appreciation for diversity as defined in the Cal Poly Statement on Diversity, included in the catalog on page 15. They should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of relationships between diversity, inequality, and social, economic, and political power both in the United States and globally
- Demonstrate knowledge of contributions made by individuals from diverse and/or underrepresented groups to our local, national, and global communities
- Consider perspectives of diverse groups when making decisions
- Function as members of society and as professionals with people who have ideas, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors that are different from their own

Sustainability Learning Objectives (SLOs)

Cal Poly defines sustainability as the ability of the natural and social systems to survive and thrive together to meet current and future needs. In order to consider sustainability when making reasoned decisions, all graduating students should be able to:

- Define and apply sustainability principles within their academic programs
- Explain how natural, economic, and social systems interact to foster or prevent sustainability
- Analyze and explain local, national, and global sustainability using a multidisciplinary approach
- Consider sustainability principles while developing personal and professional values