



## A Welcome and Why We Are Glad You Are Here



### ***We would like to welcome all students:***

- Students of all ages, from the youngest to the oldest enrolled student, and with this, the differences in generations and life-stages.
- Students of all genders, including those who identify as female, male, transgender, agender, and gender fluid.
- Students of all cultures, races, and ethnicities, including those indigenous to this land, those who came or their ancestors came to make a life here in this country, those with citizenship or without, those who speak any language, and those who are international students and undocumented students.
- Students of all sexual and romantic orientations, including gay, lesbian, heterosexual, bisexual or pansexual, and asexual.
- Students from all socioeconomic backgrounds, from those who struggle for food, housing, and the means to pay for bills and their education to those with greater access to needed resources for living and schooling.
- Students who are single, dating, partnered, married, separated, or who have lost someone they love; students living alone or with roommates, the families they were born into, or the families they create; and students with responsibilities for the care of children and other family members in need.
- Students with different personalities, abilities, and neurodiversity.
- Students with disabling conditions, including those related to sight, sound, mobility, speech, health, pain, mind, emotion, and learning, visible or invisible.
- Students of different religions, faiths, and spiritual views and practices, as well as students who are agnostic, atheist, or seeking.
- Students of different political parties and views, from liberal to conservative in party to membership in other political groups.
- Students of different occupations and job experiences, who work(ed) in the public or private sector, for gainful employment, experience, and/or internship.



- Students who serve, in volunteerism, activism, or service to our nation, including those who are or were in military service.
- Students in their first year of college to their last, and students with varying knowledge of college and with different entry points into higher education: new students, transfer students, students coming back to college, and first generation college students.
- Students who come from different educational backgrounds, with varying degrees of academic preparation, and different learning styles, needs, and preferences.
- Students who are majoring in all fields of study, and students who have not yet decided.
- Students who have different campus interests, from athletics, to Greek life, to various clubs and campus organizations.

## ***You make us a better institution.***

### ***Our greatest learning needs the diversity of all.***

What we teach, traditionally, is very Eurocentric—the work of older white males of European descent—and all the other work of most fields, too, is inevitably limited by the limited number of identities of those or any scholars, simply because a human being cannot belong to all groups. This means we need greater diversity of perspectives and voices. The scholars who created most of the theories, conducted the studies, and wrote the academic articles or books need the scholars sitting in each class to contribute their own unique insights and ideas in order to make all of our understanding of the work we are learning better and stronger. *We need you and all of the different thinking you bring for all of our best learning here on campus.*

### ***This campus needs the diversity of all.***

You each bring unique strengths, resources, and benefits to our classes and campus--and that diversity of all is what makes us a better place and better people. Research shows that diverse groups and organizations show greater critical thinking and creativity, and more effective problem solving and decision making, with good communication between the different members. This means each of our classes, campus programs, committees, and clubs, they are made better by you--and that Sac State University is made better by you being here! We know, as well, that discussion and interaction with a variety of people helps each of us to grow in our ability to communicate and interact well with others. This means students strengthen the competency skills necessary to successfully working with different people and groups in the working world and the civic realm, and *we all--students, faculty, and staff--strengthen in our awareness, understanding, and communication with others, making our campus, as well as the broader community and country, better.*

## ***And we want the best for you.***

### ***There are great benefits to being in college.***



Pursuing your higher education gives you so many opportunities to learn more about this world in which we live and others in it, expanding minds and strengthening thinking, and to learn more about yourself, and develop and actualize all the ideas, insights, abilities, and talents within, waiting to come out. You also have wonderful opportunities to form connections with others, have enriching and transformative experiences inside and outside of class, and better explore what you want to do with your life and prepare for the working world in knowledge, skill, networking, and experience.

***There are great rewards to achieving a college degree.***

The benefits of being a college graduate have been well-studied over the years: Professionally: College graduates have a greater range of employment opportunities and marketability to get the job—and once hired, typically greater job advancement and job security, better employment conditions and benefits, and higher earnings and job satisfaction. Personally: College graduates tend to have higher self-esteem, a better quality of life, and are healthier, exercise more, and live longer. College graduates are more likely to vote, volunteer, contribute, and become involved in the community. College graduates are also more likely to have children who go to college themselves. In sum, *in working to achieve your college degree, you are blazing a brighter future for yourself, your future generations to come, and our community and country.*

***We are committed to student success for all.***

***Please never forget how much you are valued and needed here. You are important to us! We want to see you succeed! Please reach out if we may ever be of service to you.***

Sincerely,

The DEGREES Project Team