

Cal Poly
San Luis Obispo
College of Science and Mathematics

A Statement of Mission and Values

“It’s All About Our Students”

The College of Science and Mathematics promotes the learning, understanding, and appreciation of science and mathematics as a basis for creative endeavors, intellectual pursuits, careers, and critical consideration of issues confronting society. It provides the foundation for the polytechnic curriculum, offers a rich and distinctive general education program, and prepares students pursuing degrees in the College for post-baccalaureate education and careers. An excellent and committed faculty guides Cal Poly students in developing the interest and capacity for lifelong learning by engaging their curiosities, imaginations, and critical and creative thinking skills.

Our Community of Students, Faculty, and Staff

The College of Science and Mathematics is a community in which commitment, collegiality, and integrity are expected in each of its members. We value dedication, strong work ethics, and genuine concern for the intellectual growth and personal success of our students, faculty, and staff. Especially important are openness to new ideas, tolerance of diverse points of view, respect for personal and cultural differences, and an environment of civility where all are treated with dignity and respect. We strive to be courteous, considerate, and supportive members of the University and San Luis Obispo area community.

Our Students

The faculty and staff of the College of Science and Mathematics encourage Cal Poly students to:

- value the privilege of pursuing a university education,
- demonstrate a genuine interest in intellectual growth,
- demonstrate an appreciation for the arts and sciences and the polytechnic emphasis of the University,
- take personal responsibility for learning,
- focus on achieving a degree and preparing for a career or post baccalaureate opportunities,
- develop a strong work ethic,
- work cooperatively with their fellow students, the staff, and the faculty, and
- demonstrate respect, honesty, and integrity in all aspects of their lives.

We also believe that student involvement in co-curricular and extracurricular activities, community service, and participation in thoughtful discussions and activities concerning societal issues is an important part of university life.

Our Faculty

In teaching and learning

The faculty is dedicated to helping all Cal Poly students succeed academically, graduate, and pursue a career or post baccalaureate education. It is especially committed to orienting new students, many of whom take their initial courses in the College of Science and Mathematics, to the academic standards of the university. We strive to be respected role models, trusted personal and professional mentors, and valued intellectual guides. We lead by example and provide thoughtful and challenging learning experiences that develop the intellect and capacity for lifelong learning. We model and nurture curiosity, imagination, creativity, critical thought, and problem solving. Cal Poly embraces the “learn by doing” approach to education, with a strong intellectual base, and the faculty makes meaningful and innovative contributions to the curriculum and to pedagogy.

In professional development and scholarly activities

We pursue career-long professional development to maintain our engagement in, and enthusiasm for, teaching and learning. We encourage both disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarly activities as well as collaborative endeavors and the involvement of students to provide them meaningful creative learning experiences. Our faculty members make scholarly contributions to their disciplines throughout their careers; they and their student collaborators are encouraged to present this work at regional, national, and international meetings and in published form.

In service and contributions to the community

Our faculty members participate in department responsibilities and activities and in special events of the college and university community. They make meaningful service contributions at all levels in personnel matters, curriculum, student welfare and success, and other areas important to the advancement of the university. They support student organizations and activities, arrange for the expression of external ideas and expertise on campus, and they share their own expertise with both the University and external community.

Our Staff

The College of Science and Mathematics instructional support staff is a team of professionals who provide clerical, administrative, and technical services. They promote a working environment of cooperation, collaboration, respect, openness, and professionalism. Service to Cal Poly students is a priority and is provided with efficiency, warmth, and sensitivity.

Our staff members support the faculty in teaching and professional development. They support Cal Poly students in all aspects of their personal and academic needs in pursuing a college education. They maintain continuity in the departments and college and communicate traditions, values, and policies to our students and faculty. Staff members are valued mentors to students; they are role models, teach specialized skills, and demonstrate a strong work ethic.

College of Science and Mathematics staff members take responsibility for their professional development and maintaining excellence in their skills and disciplines. They foster creative partnerships with students, administration, and faculty members and strive to serve in leadership roles at all levels of the university. The staff is an integral part of the College and plays an important role in promoting and strengthening the spirit of community.