

Cal State San Marcos
Specialized Graduation Road Maps for First-Time Freshmen

The Office of First-Year Programs has taken the lead in working with Undergraduate Advising Services and individual academic departments to create a set of detailed semester-by-semester road maps for the first two years of study. These road maps lead students through Lower-Division General Education (LDGE) and Preparation for the Major.

These road maps recognize that students beginning study in a major may need different plans depending on where they fall along three different dimensions of preparedness:

- English: three levels – having failed the EPT test, having cleared the EPT requirement without having earned AP credit, and having AP credit in English
- Mathematics: depending on the major, there are four or five levels of preparedness – needing to enroll in a Pre-Algebra course, a Beginning Algebra course, an Intermediate Algebra course, or ready for a baccalaureate-level mathematics course (in majors requiring calculus, this is divided into two cases: ready for calculus, and needing to take a College Algebra or Pre-Calculus course first)
- Language Other Than English (CSUSM requires proficiency at the third-semester level as a campus graduation requirement): four levels – students enter either ready to take a 101-, 102-, or 201-level course, or able to meet the requirement without taking a course

Thus for each major it is necessary to produce 48 (or 60 for majors requiring calculus) unique road maps through the first two years.

A set of principles for creating the road maps has been developed. These include:

- Recommended unit loads for each semester (at least 13 units in every semester, but not more than 15 units in the first semester of the freshman year)
- Immediate enrollment in any necessary remediation courses/sequences
- Early completion of basic skills (Area A) courses and a college success course (Area E), and purposeful ordering of these courses
- Taking an introductory course in the major as soon as possible, with all preparatory work for the major being completed in first two years (if possible)
- Major-specific recommendations – where applicable – for the courses to be used in fulfilling LDGE requirements
- Advising students who will not be able to complete all LDGE or Preparation for the Major courses in the first two years (due either to extensive lower-division preparation requirements in the major or to the student needing to take remedial courses) to take summer classes

Road maps have been completed for some majors, and are under construction for the rest. An interactive website is under construction which will house all of the road maps. The graduation road maps website will allow incoming freshmen to compare study for different majors and prospective students to explore different scenarios in order to understand the implications of scoring at a certain level on the ELM exam, the EPT or the AP English exam.

On the reverse side of this page are two of the 48 roadmaps for students wishing to major in Psychology. Both students will fulfill all LDGE or Preparation for the Major during their first four semesters, but as a consequence of arriving with different proficiency levels, these students might only take 10 courses together during the first two years.