The CSULA information literate student can:

1. **Define the research topic and the need for information**
   - Demonstrate a clear understanding of the assignment or information need and its requirements.
   - Develop a purpose statement and a timeline for completion of the project.
   - Clearly articulate a focused research question or problem.
   - Identify types of materials (journals, government publications, books, Web presentations) that may be used to complete the research.
   - Recognize gaps in information or that information may be limited on the topic.

2. **Access information effectively and efficiently**
   - Choose key concepts or terms appropriate to the retrieval system selected.
   - Recognize that the organization of literature differs by discipline.
   - Search the library OPAC, article databases, and Web sites fluently, navigating between print and online sources as necessary.
   - Follow a citation and connect citation components with searches.
   - Locate information remotely and physically by utilizing URLs, call numbers, linking software, and interlibrary loan.
   - Modify the search strategy as necessary.

3. **Evaluate information critically**
   - Determine if the information discovered is relevant for the needs of the assignment.
   - Distinguish between scholarly and popular sources, primary and secondary sources, and mainstream and alternative sources of information.
   - Examine and compare information found in books, articles, and web sites, and evaluate for reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, scope, and timeliness.
   - Identify prejudice, bias, deception, or manipulation.

4. **Organize, synthesize, and communicate information for a specific purpose**
   - Manage and store search strategies and search results from a variety of resources using various technological tools.
   - Integrate new information with previous information to create knowledge appropriate to answering the research question.
   - Present information in a manner that supports the assignment or information need.

5. **Ethically and legally access and use information**
   - Avoid plagiarism by appropriately summarizing, paraphrasing, quoting and acknowledging sources.
   - Legally obtain, store, and use text and data, including sound and images.
   - Select and consistently use a citation style appropriate to the discipline.
   - Cite correctly printed, multimedia, and online sources.
   - Distinguish between free and fee-based access to information.

Adapted ACRL Standards and UCLA Library.