
The Twelve Aims of Systematic Śāstric Study

The following Aims apply to all four VTE Śāstric degrees, starting with Bhakti-śāstrī. These Aims are weighted differently for each of the four main courses (please refer to page 36 for more details)

1. To help students memorize and recall the (theoretical) knowledge which forms the foundation of their ongoing progress in Kṛṣṇa consciousness. **Kno**
2. To deepen students' understanding of the Kṛṣṇa consciousness theology, particularly through studying it from a wide range of perspectives and through developing thoughtfulness and introspection. **Und**
3. To equip students with the ability to see through the eyes of śāstra, and with a Kṛṣṇa conscious worldview. Ultimately, to assist the students in realizing scripture, re-establishing their relationship with Kṛṣṇa and remaining conscious of Him at all times and in all places. **SC/Rea**

Aim number 3 includes “Realization” **Rea**

Although śāstra-cakṣus ultimately means and requires full realization, this Aim is also delivered at different levels leading up to full realization of the Absolute Truth.

4. To help students apply the Kṛṣṇa consciousness theology, with reference to:
 - (a) their external practices
 - (b) their inner development and to help them develop appropriate vaiṣṇava qualities and behavior. **PeA**
5. To enhance devotees desire and ability to preach effectively. **PrA**
6. To help create learned vaiṣṇava theologians who are expert in assisting the Society through application of śāstric knowledge to a wide range of personal, social, moral, topical and theological issues. **ThA**

7. To facilitate devotees in:
- (a) understanding and appreciating the mood and mission of Śrīla Prabhupāda
 - (b) perpetuating that understanding within the Society and its members. **M+M**
8. To ensure that devotees develop moral and academic integrity in the interpretation, evaluation and application of śāstric knowledge. **AMI**
9. To simultaneously cultivate within devotees:
- (a) wholehearted acceptance of the spiritual authority of śāstra
 - (b) a mood of open and honest inquiry and a desire to factually understand and realize the import of Vedic knowledge. **Aut**
10. To help build and maintain students' faith and conviction in:
- (a) the process of Kṛṣṇa consciousness
 - (b) the śāstra as its foundation. **F+C**
11. To develop students' analytical, interpretative and evaluative skills, particularly in respect of the practical application of śāstric knowledge. **Eva**
- (a) "Taste/Appreciation/Relevance" **TAR**
 - (b) "Study Skills" **SSK**
- The first is largely about motivation (and relates to *values*) and the second about acquiring the appropriate learning *skills*.
12. To encourage students to take responsibility for their learning and develop healthy study habits by:
- (a) enhancing their desire to study Śrīla Prabhupāda's books (particularly by nurturing their appreciation of śāstra and śāstric study, and by demonstrating śāstra's relevance to everyday life)
 - (b) equipping them with the appropriate learning skills. **RfL**