



COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTION AND CURRICULUM

17-18 CIC 73
Monday, May 21, 2018

TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: Writing Skills Subcommittee via
Committee on Instruction and Curriculum (CIC)

SUBJECT: 17-18 CIC 73: Revision of 14-15 CIC 41: Policy on Graduate Courses to
Fulfill the University Writing Skills Requirement Major/Minor Policy

PURPOSE: For action by the Academic Senate

**ACTION
REQUESTED:** That the Senate approve the revised Policy eliminating the requirement of a
separate grade report for the writing component

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

[14-15 CIC 41](#): Policy on Graduate Courses to Fulfill the University Writing Skills Requirement states that “while writing assignments should be an integral part of the course, the GWAR component will be evaluated separately, i.e. students will receive a course grade and a separate CR/NC evaluation of their writing competency. Students who receive an NC on the writing component must then take the WST or a first-tier course.” The requirement of a separate grade often presents a hardship for CSUEB graduate students. Instructors of these courses may not remember that this must be done and/or the department may be unaware of how to submit this separate grade roster (as it cannot be submitted in PeopleSoft when regular course grades are submitted). The Registrar’s Office must then code these grades separately into the system. All of this creates a delay in getting the UWSR completion processed. Since students must now have completed the UWSR to file for graduation, this will delay their graduation filing. In addition, to date, no students in the approved courses have been reported to have received an NC grade on the writing component, all of this extra effort has no impact.

Further, no other CSU campuses require such a separate writing grade for their graduate writing courses. In fact, CSU graduate writing requirements range from waiving the requirement for any students who received their undergraduate degrees from English-speaking universities to allowing each graduate program to establish its own method of satisfying the requirement (See attached list of all CSU graduate GWAR policies.)

Therefore, the proposed policy eliminates the requirement of a separate grade for the writing component. Instead, the class grade will determine the student's fulfillment of the UWSR.

PROPOSED REVISED POLICY

Policy for Fulfilling the University Writing Skills Requirement with Graduate Courses
Graduate programs at CSUEB may request that one of their courses be approved to assess student writing, as mandated in EO 665. Consistent with established assessment procedures, students who demonstrate writing proficiency in these courses --will have fulfilled the University Writing Skills Requirement. Those who do not demonstrate proficiency will have the option of taking the WST or a first-tier course, and they will fulfill the University Writing Skills Requirement when they have completed the necessary steps indicated by those results.

The Writing Skills Subcommittee of CIC shall be charged with reviewing all courses proposed to fulfill the graduation writing assessment requirement (GWAR). Given the recent approval of [16-17 CIC 56](#), requiring students to have completed the University Writing Skills Requirement before being allowed to file for graduation, proposed courses should be those ideally taken in the first term of the program. In order for a course to receive GWAR certification, students must individually produce a minimum of 4,000 – 5,000 words (15-20 pages) of prose. This may be accomplished in a combination of assignments, but must include at least one substantial piece of final draft, revised quality writing. Students who receive a C grade or better in an approved course will meet the UWSR. Students who receive a C- grade or lower must then take the WST or a first-tier writing course.

Requesting GWAR Certification

Programs or departments requesting GWAR certification for a course shall provide the following documents for the Writing Skills Subcommittee, sending electronic copies of all materials to the Office of Academic Programs and Services. Materials shall include:

- a brief statement for the Writing Skills Subcommittee about writing expectations in the program under consideration, including the kinds of writing typically produced in the discipline
- a course syllabus with a clear statement of how students will fulfill the GWAR
- an explanation of steps that will be taken to prevent academic dishonesty, including plagiarism
- specific directions for writing assignments that will be included in the assessment
- clearly articulated criteria for the writing assignments, such as rubrics that address form, content, language, and editing
- samples of student writing identified as "passing," "marginal," and "failing" proficiency.

The Writing Skills Subcommittee will review the application documents and will make its recommendations to CIC and the Academic Senate.

Initial Approval

Courses that receive Senate approval can evaluate student writing for the purpose of satisfying the GWAR for one academic year. During that time, instructors will collect samples of passing, borderline, and failing student work, as well as data on the number of students who met the GWAR as a result of the course. This information will be presented to the Writing Skills Subcommittee after the first delivery of the course. On the basis of the submitted documentation,

the Writing Skills Subcommittee will recommend that the Academic Senate renew or rescind approval of the course for the purpose of fulfilling the GWAR.

Renewal Process

After the first year, courses that have been approved for the GWAR will be reviewed every three years. When requesting renewal, statistics on the pass/fail rates for the preceding years must be provided, as well as current syllabi, writing assignments, evaluation criteria, and samples of passing, borderline, and failing assignments. Programs that provide evidence of effectively evaluating student writing will continue as approved courses. If there is evidence that the course cannot responsibly or adequately assess student writing, the Academic Senate will withdraw GWAR certification. (See addendum below for information on pilot courses.)

Addendum: Currently, we have four courses approved during the pilot: Music 6000, MGMT 6120, EDLD 6400, and EDLD 8083, all of which are due for renewal should this proposal be approved. (PUAD 6850, approved in the pilot, has been withdrawn at the request of the program director.)

CSU Graduate GWAR Policies

Bakersfield

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement

All graduate and post-baccalaureate students must satisfy the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) as soon as possible in their graduate study, unless they have already done so. Individual graduate programs have the option of stating when this requirement must be met. Graduate students who have not met this requirement may do so by passing the regularly scheduled examination (offered once a quarter) or by earning a “C” or better in one of the approved GWAR courses. Note that GWAR courses generally have additional course prerequisites (see course descriptions for details).

Waivers for Post-Baccalaureate and Graduate Students

You will be exempt from the GWAR if you meet any of the four criteria below:

- (1) You graduated from a CSU or UC since 1980.
- (2) As of Fall 2006, post-baccalaureate and graduate students with the following test scores (provided the test(s) were taken since 1980):

GMAT 4.5 or higher on the writing portion of the GMAT

CBEST 41 or higher on the writing portion of the CBEST

GRE 4.5 or higher on the analytic writing portion of the GRE General Test

(3) Post-baccalaureate and graduate students who have one or more articles published as first author in a refereed professional journal may submit their work for review to the chair of the university-wide GWAR committee with a formal request to waive the GWAR.

(4) Post-Baccalaureate and graduate students who already have an MA or MS in any discipline that included a master's thesis or project and are working on another degree or credential may submit their thesis or project for review to the chair of the university-wide GWAR committee (Faculty Towers 102-D) with a formal request to waive the GWAR. In the last two situations, waiver requests and supporting documents will be reviewed, and you will receive a decision usually within two weeks.

Channel Islands

[http://catalog.csuci.edu/content.php?catoid=46&navoid=2948#Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement GWAR](http://catalog.csuci.edu/content.php?catoid=46&navoid=2948#Graduate_Writing_Assessment_Requirement_GWAR)

Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)

Master of Science Degree in Biotechnology & Bioinformatics

Writing proficiency prior to the awarding of the degree is demonstrated by successful completion of [BINF 500 - DNA and Protein Sequence Analysis](#) with a grade of B or higher.

Master of Science Degree in Biotechnology and Master of Business Administration

Writing proficiency prior to the awarding of the degree is demonstrated by successful completion of [BINF 500 - DNA and Protein Sequence Analysis](#) or [BUS 520 - Strategy and Leadership](#) with a grade of B or higher.

Master of Business Administration

Writing proficiency prior to the awarding of the degree is demonstrated by successful completion of [BUS 520 - Strategy and Leadership](#) with a grade of B or higher.

Master of Science in Computer Science

Writing proficiency prior to the awarding of the degree is demonstrated by successful completion of [COMP 597 - Master Thesis](#) with a grade of B or higher.

Master of Arts in Education: Educational Leadership Specialization

Writing proficiency to the awarding of the degree is demonstrated by successful completion of [EDUC 605 - Education in a Diverse Society](#), with a grade of B or higher.

Master of Arts in Education: Special Education Specialization

Writing proficiency to the awarding of the degree is demonstrated by successful completion of [EDUC 605 - Education in a Diverse Society](#), with a grade of B or higher.

Master of Science in Mathematics

Writing proficiency prior to the awarding of the degree is demonstrated by successful completion of at least two credits of [MATH 597 - Master Thesis](#) or [MATH 598 - Master Project](#) with a grade of B or higher.

Chico

At Chico, we offer a succinct statement regarding the policy in our catalog (see below). Each program determines their own method of assessing writing proficiency falling into one of two

categories: (1) the successful completion of a specific writing intensive course, usually offered the first semester, or (2) a qualifying written exam that must be passed prior to advancement to candidacy. The specific requirement is listed in each program's catalog copy.

Graduate Requirement in Writing Proficiency

All students must demonstrate competency in writing skills as a requirement for graduation. Each department has developed a method of assuring that its students have adequate writing skills. Refer to the "Graduate Requirement in Writing Proficiency" section of individual master's degree program descriptions for specific information.

Dominguez Hills

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement

California State University Executive Order 665 states that "campuses shall require demonstration of writing proficiency prior to the award of a graduate degree. The level of proficiency shall be no less than the level required for GEAR certification at the baccalaureate level." The requirement must be fulfilled within the first 9 units of coursework. Students who have not met this requirement may not begin their culminating activity (thesis or comprehensive exam).

The GEAR may be met through one of the following options:

1. Graduation Writing Examination (GWE). The Graduation Writing Examination, a voluntary test for which a \$35 fee is charged, is available to students five times per academic year, in September, November, February, April, and June or July. Students must earn a score of 8 or higher to satisfy the GEAR. Students may take the test a second time if necessary. The test may be taken only two times. After two attempts at the test, students must then take a certifying course. Information on test dates and registration procedures is available in each semester's Class Schedule, in the Testing Center, North Library 5705, (310) 243-3909, testing@csudh.edu, or at the Testing website <http://www4.csudh.edu/testing-center/>.
 1. Provisions are made for students majoring in distance learning programs and other off-campus programs. Although students majoring in these programs can take the GWE on-campus, most students have the option of taking it via a proctor at a location of their choosing. There are three off-campus administrations per academic year, in the fall, spring, and summer. Students exercising this option must register directly with their Program Advisors, who will then provide them with any necessary information and materials.
 2. A provision is made for students who are not native speakers of English. The GWE registration form asks students to indicate whether or not they are native speakers of English. Students who declare themselves non-native speakers may elect to write their essay in two hours instead of one, though this choice must be made at the time of registration. The essays are scored along with those of native speakers with respect to overall considerations of focus, critical understanding, content, organization, and grammar.
 3. Provisions are made for students who are disabled. Arrangements are made on an individual basis by the Student disAbility Resource Center, Welch Hall 180, (310) 243-3660, in conjunction with the Testing Center. Students must contact the Student disAbility Resource Center at least 10 working days prior to the GWE test date and after registering for the GWE. Students should contact the Testing Center for details: (310) 243-3909, or <testing@csudh.edu>.

4. Provisions are made for students who, for religious or other compelling reasons, cannot be tested on Saturdays, the usual day of the test. If students can demonstrate a legitimate reason (e.g., religious belief or travel associated with CSUDH intercollegiate sports programs) for inability to take the GWE on Saturday, an alternative day will be found. They should contact the Testing Center, (310) 243-3909, or <testing@csudh.edu>.
2. Certifying Courses
 1. Advanced Composition Course offered by the English Department. The English Department regularly offers an advanced composition course ([ENG 350](#), 3 units, A-C/NC). A Composition Cooperative exam (a timed writing test similar to the GWE) is administered at the end of the course and counts for 25% of the grade. Students must earn a grade of B or higher to satisfy the GEAR.
 2. Upper Division Writing Adjunct offered by the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. The Writing Adjunct ([IDS 397](#), 2 units, and [IDS 398](#), 2 units, CR/NC), provides individualized instruction in composition that is adjunctive to writing for other courses. Students must complete both [IDS 397](#) and [IDS 398](#). A Composition Cooperative exam (a timed writing test similar to the GWE) is administered at the end of [IDS 398](#) and counts for 50% of the grade. Students must obtain written acknowledgement from the instructor that performance in the coursework was commensurate with a grade of B or higher to satisfy the GEAR.
 3. An earned degree from one of the CSU campuses (other than CSUDH) with the GEAR having been satisfied in 1984 or later at the previous CSU campus. Students must complete a Petition for Fulfillment of GEAR at the Testing Center, attaching a copy of an official transcript.
 4. A grade of B or higher in an accepted upper division composition course from another university. Students who have taken the equivalent of the CSUDH Advanced Composition course, [ENG 350](#), may request a review of its equivalency. Students must complete a Petition for Fulfillment of GEAR at the Testing Center, attaching a copy of an official transcript and the catalog description of the pertinent coursework. Lower division writing courses (e.g. Freshman English), literature courses and specialized courses in business, technical, report, or creative writing, among other courses, are not acceptable. Only the GEAR Coordinator is authorized to decide whether coursework done elsewhere satisfies the CSUDH writing requirement. Students must complete a Petition for Fulfillment of GEAR at the Testing Center, attaching a copy of an official transcript and the catalog description of the pertinent coursework.
 5. For graduate students in English Literature, satisfactory performance on the Graduate Exercise administered by the English Department.
 6. A score of 4.0 or higher on the Analytical Writing Analysis of the GMAT. Students must complete a Petition for Fulfillment of GEAR at the Testing Center, attaching a copy of the certifying test score.
 7. A score of 4.0 or higher on the Analytical Writing section of the GRE. Students must complete a Petition for Fulfillment of GEAR at the Testing Center, attaching a copy of the certifying test score.

East Bay

University Writing Skills Requirement for Graduate Students

All CSU graduates must demonstrate competency in writing prior to receiving a degree by satisfying the University Writing Skills requirement (UWSR). *Graduate students* can meet this requirement in one of the following ways:

- If you have previously satisfied the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement at CSUEB or at another CSU campus, CSUEB will accept official certification of completion if the entire requirement, as specified by that CSU campus, was satisfied and you were a matriculated student at the time.
- If you have graduated from any one of the CSU campuses, unless it is noted on your transcript that your USWR was not satisfied.
- If you received an essay score of 4.5 or higher on the GMAT or GRE or an essay score of 53 or higher on the CBEST.
- If you pass the Writing Skills Test (WST) at Cal State East Bay. See WST (Option One) for details.
- If you pass a first-tier writing course and possibly a second-tier writing course (if needed). See Course (Option Two) for details.

If you have not satisfied the UWSR before you begin your graduate work, you must either take the Writing Skills Test or enroll in a first-tier course by the end of your first quarter in “Conditionally Classified graduate” status. If you do not take the test or course when required, you may have a hold placed on your ability to register and may be dropped from your classes. If you think your writing is competent, you should take the Writing Skills Test. The UWSR must be satisfied before you can be admitted as a “Classified Graduate” student and, consequently, before you can be advanced to candidacy and receive a degree.

WST (Option One):

The Writing Skills Test consists of an analytic essay that requires you to demonstrate that you can think and write critically. You must pass the WST and satisfy the UWSR with a score of Clear Competence (8) to meet the requirement. If you fail the WST, you have only one opportunity to take it again. If you fail it again, your highest score of the two will determine your placement in the writing courses. If your score is Limited Competence (6), you will be required to take the course option (see below). If your score is Developing Competence (7), you need only take a second-tier writing course and pass with a C-(CR) or better to satisfy the UWSR.

Course (Option Two):

[ENGL 3000](#) and [ENGL 3001](#) are the first-tier writing courses, designed to help students meet the University Writing Skills Requirement. Students who have taken the Writing Skills Test (WST) and have received Limited Competence (6) must take this course and perhaps a second-tier course as well. If you choose to meet this requirement through class work, you do not need to take the WST; although, you may take it at any time, for a total of two attempts, even when enrolled in a writing skills course. Generally speaking, ENGL 3000 is intended for native speakers of English, while ENGL 3001 is intended for non-native speakers. Based on end-of-course portfolio evaluation scores, at the end of the first-tier course you will be directed as to your next step, which will involve one of the following: You may be found to have met the UWSR requirement altogether, you may be directed to enroll in a second-tier course, or you may be directed to repeat the first-tier course.

Two second-tier courses are currently offered: [ENGL 3003](#), and [MKTG 3495](#). Business majors are required to take MKTG 3495 in the major but may not enroll until they have reached Developing Competence on the WST or passed a first-tier course. If you passed one of these courses prior to Fall 2000, it may not meet the UWSR. For more information on these courses, contact the individual department.

Fresno

GRADUATE WRITING REQUIREMENT

GOALS:

In order to command scholarly and professional credibility, graduate students should:

- a. Develop writing skills commensurate with society's expectations of persons who hold advanced degrees.
- b. Develop the ability to write in formats and styles appropriate to their disciplines.

POLICY:

In accordance with requirements of the State of California, students must demonstrate competence in written English before they apply for advancement to candidacy. For pedagogical reasons, they should demonstrate such competence as early in their programs as possible.

OBJECTIVES:

The student's writing should demonstrate

- a. Comprehensibility;
- b. Clear organization and presentation of ideas;
- c. An ability to arrange ideas logically so as to establish a sound scholarly argument;
- d. Thoroughness and competence in documentation;
- e. An ability to express in writing a critical analysis of existing scholarly/professional literature in the student's area of interest; and
- f. An ability to model the discipline's overall style as reflected in representative journals.

STANDARDS:

Writing competency should be measured against specific standards (e.g., representative journals in the field), which are stated in the program's catalog entry, in the department's graduate student handbook, and in similar material.

IMPLEMENTATION:

At the time of the student's advancement to candidacy, the program must specify the means (See 2a-d below) by which the writing requirement is met.

The writing requirement may be fulfilled by any of the following items:

- (a) A course or courses specified by the program, provided these courses meet the requirements stated in "Objectives", above. Should the student pass all components other than writing, the student would receive credit for the course but would have to demonstrate writing competence in some other way, specified by the program's writing policy.
- (b) A survey of literature or proposal for thesis or project, if this task precedes advancement to candidacy.
- (c) A qualifying exam with a substantial essay component, if the exam is completed prior to advancement to candidacy.
- (d) A development process that spans several semesters, but is completed prior to advancement to candidacy. In this case, portfolio assessment or similar evaluative methods are appropriate. Departments that choose this approach must describe in writing the developmental process and specify faculty member(s) who will monitor it.

Neither a passing score on the CSU Upper Division Writing Examination nor scores on the verbal portion of the Graduate Record Examination may be used to fulfill the graduate writing requirement.

Each graduate program's writing policy is subject to review of and approval by the University Graduate Committee.

Fullerton

<http://www.fullerton.edu/graduate/currentstudents/policies/generalrequirements.php>

University Writing Requirements

Students working toward a master's degree are required to demonstrate writing ability commensurate with the baccalaureate degree. This requirement should be met by successfully completing one of the following:

1. By having passed the upper-division writing requirement at any CSU campus.
2. By having passed with a grade of C (2.0) or better an upper-division writing course at another university equivalent to a course, which meets the CSUF requirement. Such equivalence must be certified by the department or program responsible for the student's academic work.<
3. By passing with a grade of C (2.0) or better an upper-division course approved by the University Board on Writing Proficiency or graduate-level course or courses certified by the University Graduate Education Committee as meeting the writing requirement and approved by the department or program responsible for the student's academic work.
4. By scoring a minimum of 4.0 on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Writing Assessment Test.
5. By scoring a minimum of 4.0 pm the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) Analytical Writing Assessment.

For further information, students should consult their department [Graduate Program Advisers](#).

Humboldt

Graduate Writing Requirement

All graduate students must demonstrate competency in writing by completing either a designated course that contains a significant writing component (at least 30% of the course grade), a 50th percentile score or better on a verbal component of a standardized entrance exam (GRE or GMAT), a thesis/project proposal approved prior to advancement to candidacy, or an approved thesis/project manuscript. The graduate writing requirement is built in to each program. For more information, please check with your committee chair or graduate coordinator.

Long Beach

https://web.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/graduate_information/gwar_graduate.htm
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Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)

Under the approved GWAR policy from Spring 2012, all graduate students must demonstrate upper-division competency in academic writing in English by fulfilling the GWAR in order to advance to candidacy.

Exceptions and Exemptions to GWAR Requirements

There are three existing pathways for graduate students to immediately satisfy GWAR requirements:

1. Graduate students who earned a degree from an accredited college or university in the United States satisfy the GWAR.
2. Graduate students who earned a degree from an accredited non-US institution located in a country where English is a primary language of communication satisfy the GWAR
3. Graduate students who earned a 4 or above on the analytical writing component of the GRE or GMAT satisfy the GWAR.
4. Beginning Fall 2013, these exceptions or exemptions are automatically noted on students' records at the time of admission. However, if an exception or exemption is not on record, graduate students may submit a Graduate Student Petition to satisfy the CSULB GWAR to Testing, Evaluation & Assessment, BH-216. The petition form is available at BH-216 or at www.csulb.edu/testing.

GWAR Placement Exam (GPE) Results

Graduate students who do not meet any of the three existing pathways discussed above, must take the GPE, the writing placement exam. There are four possible outcomes from the GPE:

1. Graduate students who receive scores of 11 or higher on the writing placement exam have satisfied GWAR requirements.
2. Graduate students who receive scores of 8, 9, or 10 on the GPE are required to complete a GWAR portfolio course with a grade of "C" or better, and submit a passing writing portfolio. Once this is successfully completed students have satisfied GWAR requirements.
3. Graduate students who receive scores of 7 or lower on the GPE will be required 1. to complete an English GWAR 301A course with a "C" or better, and then 2. take and complete a GWAR portfolio course with a grade of "C" or better and submit a passing writing portfolio. Once 301A and a GWAR portfolio course are successfully completed students have satisfied GWAR requirements.
4. International graduate students are allowed to self-place into a GWAR portfolio course. Once they successfully complete their GWAR portfolio course with a grade of "C" or better, and submit a passing writing portfolio, they have satisfied the GWAR requirements. Note: International graduate students can take the GPE with the outcomes discussed in 1-3 above.

Los Angeles

Graduate Writing Requirement

(Senate: 4/3/84, 8/5/86, 8/23/88, 9/23/92[EA], 5/4/99, 6/2/15, 4/4/17; President: 4/19/84, 5/9/87, 10/7/88, 11/18/92, 8/17/99, 10/13/15, 4/19/17; Editorial Amendment: 9/00, 8/01)

All CSU students are required by Trustee policy to demonstrate competence in writing as a requirement for all advanced degrees. All post-baccalaureate students at Cal State L.A. who are subject to requirements of the 1984-85 or any later Catalog and who are pursuing a graduate degree are required to satisfy the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Graduate students are considered to have met the GWAR requirement upon admission to the university if they (1) earned a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university where English is the medium of instruction; or (2) attained a score of 41 or better on the writing portion of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) or a score of 4 on the analytic writing portion of the GRE or the GMAT.

Graduate students must satisfy this requirement before completing 12 semester units. Graduate students may take the writing proficiency exam once. Students who do not pass are required to pass the designated GVAR course. Students who do not satisfy the GVAR requirement within their first 12 units may be subject to a registration hold. Students must satisfy this Graduate Writing Requirement in order to be Advanced to Candidacy.

Departments/divisions/schools may require of their majors additional discipline-based coursework in writing.

A student who has satisfied the Graduate Writing Requirement shall continue to be certified with no time limit on such certification. A Post-baccalaureate unclassified student is not required to satisfy this Graduate Writing Requirement.

Monterey Bay

All programs have a writing-intensive course as the first one in the program and use that to satisfy GVAR.

Northridge

<https://catalog.csun.edu/policies/upper-division-writing-proficiency-exam-udwpe-substitution-for-graduate-students/>

All CSUN graduate students earning a degree are required by the CSU to satisfy the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GVAR) prior to full classification. Graduate students who completed an undergraduate degree at any CSU since 1982 have automatically met this requirement because they were required to demonstrate writing proficiency in order to graduate. All other graduate students have been required to take the Upper Division Writing Proficiency Exam (UDWPE) and score an 8 or higher.

There are three paths to satisfy the GVAR requirement.

Students can complete this requirement in one of the following ways:

- Demonstrate that they earned an undergraduate degree at a CSU since 1982.
- Take the UDWPE and earn a score of 8 or higher.
- Take the GRE-Analytical and earn a score of 3 or higher.

Graduate programs with existing requirements of higher GRE or UDWPE scores may continue to enforce those requirements.

Pomona

GRADUATION WRITING TEST

Students must demonstrate competency in writing skills as a requirement for graduation via the Graduation Writing Test. At Cal Poly Pomona that competency is demonstrated by passing the GWT with a score of 7 or better. The Graduation Writing Test is required of all students. For more information, visit www.cpp.edu/testcenter/tests/gwt.shtml.

Sacramento

<http://www.csus.edu/acaf/academic%20resources/policies%20and%20procedures/graduation%20writing>

WRITING PROFICIENCY (GRADUATES)

Writing proficiency at the graduate level will be demonstrated by successful completion of the graduate program requirements.

Students' preparedness for graduate level writing may be demonstrated by meeting one of the standards specified on the WPG Equivalency Standards form. Students who do not meet one or more of these standards must either take the Writing Placement for Graduate Students (WPG) or take a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course in their discipline within their first two semesters of coursework at California State University, Sacramento. Students whose performance on the WPG indicates that they do not need additional writing preparation may advance to candidacy when appropriate. Students whose WPG performance indicates they need additional preparation may elect either to take a GWI course within their program (if available) or via the College of Continuing Education. In either case, students must earn a B or above in the course in order to advance to candidacy.

NOTE:

The WPG Equivalency Standards were adapted from standards currently used to allow waivers of the WPE (included below for informational purposes.) It should be noted, however, that the WPG Equivalency Standards serve a different purpose from the WPE Waiver Standards. Currently, a student who meets one of the WPE Waiver Standards has fulfilled the GWAR requirement for graduate students on this campus. A student who meets one of the WPG Equivalency Standards, on the other hand, will not have met the GWAR requirement, which will be met by completion of the culminating experience. Instead, meeting one of the WPG Equivalency Standards means that a student has clearly demonstrated sufficient preparation for graduate-level writing that there is no need for further assessment of their preparedness.

WPG Equivalency Standards

- Have M.A./M.S., Ph.D., or J.D. from a US-Accredited University or an equivalent degree with coursework in the English language as evaluated by the Office of the Graduate Dean (attach copy of school transcript with degree noted).
- Published a refereed academic journal article in the English language (attach a copy of the journal/publication cover and first page of the article with your name).
- Graduated with a baccalaureate degree or equivalent from a US-accredited University with a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or above (attach copy of school transcript).
- Received 4.5 or higher on the analytical writing portion of the GRE/GMAT (attach verification).
- Instructor of record of a college-level writing course taught in the English language at a US-accredited University approved by the Office of the Graduate Dean

San Bernardino

<https://gradstudies.csusb.edu/currentStudents/policiesProcedures/documents/GraduateWritingRequirement-3-30-2017.pdf>

Writing Requirement for Graduate Candidacy (WRGC)

Implemented in fall 2016, the WRGC applies to graduate students enrolled in a master's program. Students admitted after the implementation of the WRGC are required to complete the WRGC before being classified or advanced to candidacy. Each program determines how the requirement

will be satisfied. Students should contact their graduate coordinator to discuss options for meeting this requirement.

San Diego

Writing Competency

The university requires that all candidates for an advanced degree demonstrate writing competency in the English language. This requirement may be met by successful completion of the written comprehensive examination in Plan B or final approval of a thesis or project in Plan A.

San Francisco

<https://senate.sfsu.edu/policy/written-english-proficiency>

Written English Proficiency Requirement

Each graduate student must demonstrate, in an independently written format, the ability to write English correctly and effectively to explain, defend or argue discipline-specific issues. The written English proficiency policy (#S16–014) requires two distinct levels of assessment: **Level I (admission)** and **Level II (degree requirement)**. The Level I requirement must be met prior to admission, or no later than the first semester of enrollment. Typical Level I written requirements may include a 4.0/6.0 or above on the Analytic Writing Assessment of the GRE or the GMAT, a score of at least 4.5/6.0 on the essay test of the paper-based [PBT] TOEFL, a minimum score of 24/30 on the Writing section iBT TOEFL, a score of at least 6.5/9.0 on the IELTS writing test, a department placement exam, writing samples, or creative works portfolio as determined by the department. Level I written English proficiency requirements are set by the academic department. Students who do not meet the Level I English Proficiency requirement at the time of admission may be conditionally admitted by the academic department with clear expectations that the student will meet the Level I English Proficiency requirement during the first semester of attendance.

Units completed by a student to reach Level I competency may not be counted on the Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) form. Students who, within the first semester of attendance, do not meet the writing competency conditions stated in the admission letter are subject to declassification from the degree program. The Level II writing requirement is determined by the department/program and is usually associated with completion of the Culminating Experience or may be related to a designated writing intensive course taken prior to the Culminating Experience.

Note: The policy above does not mention which of these levels satisfies the GVAR.

San Jose

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GVAR) - Graduate

All graduate students are required to satisfy GVAR for advancement to candidacy within a master's program. SJSU policy requires that English competency be a requirement for advancement to candidacy within a master's program. Students may satisfy this requirement in one of five ways:

- Satisfactory completion of the CSU baccalaureate GVAR during the bachelor's work at a CSU campus;
- Satisfactory completion of a departmentally approved, university-certified, GVAR-satisfying course, which has been approved by Graduate Studies, of at least three units in

which a major report is required and that report is at least 30 percent of the course grade. Approved courses are listed at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/gradstudies/policy/gwar/index.html>.

Note that passage of the writing workshop waiver examination (WST), unless with a "waiver score," is insufficient for waiving the GWR at the graduate level;

- Approval by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies of a professional (peer-reviewed) publication for which the candidate was the sole author;
- Satisfactory completion of a discipline-specific upper-division writing course at another university judged by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies to be equivalent in content and writing requirements to the SJSU 100W. To satisfy the requirement under this category, students will usually be required to submit to their graduate advisor a transcript (unofficial acceptable) showing completion of the substituting course and the grade received (a "B" or better is required) and a syllabus of the course. Original, single-authored writing samples from the course, including especially a large term paper from the course with instructor feedback visible, are also useful for borderline decisions. If the graduate advisor approves of the substitution for an SJSU GWR course, he or she would then petition the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies on behalf of the student. Students may not petition Graduate Studies directly. Substituting courses will be assessed on the basis of GWR course-certification criteria (3 units minimum, 3000 word requirement, term paper comprising 30% of course grade, and teaching of professional standards). Professional standards include the teaching of referencing and literature citation, professional style guidelines, ethics and plagiarism, copyright laws and use of published illustrations and data, IRB and animal-use permission in research, report writing and formatting, proposal writing and formatting, oral communication and presentation, and English writing proficiency.

Candidates should be aware that each department may establish its own criteria within these policy guidelines, and candidates must abide by the department decision. Thus even if a student has satisfied one of the criteria above, the department must approve the waiver and can require that its GWR-satisfying course still be taken. Graduate courses can also not be taken for credit by examination.

San Luis Obispo

<https://writingcenter.calpoly.edu/content/gwr-information-postbacclaureate-students>

GWR Information for Postbaccalaureate Students

A graduate student seeking a Master's Degree or a teaching credential must fulfill the GWR within his/her first quarter of residency in order to be advanced to candidacy.

Postbaccalaureate students may want to meet with an advisor before attempting to satisfy the requirement in case they meet alternate criteria for GWR substitution. For example, postbaccalaureate students who earned an undergraduate degree at an institution within the CSU or UC systems may request that their profile be updated (contact the University Writing & Rhetoric Center Office). And, graduate students who earned an undergraduate degree at a university outside the CSU or UC systems may be eligible for a GWR substitution based on alternate criteria. (Please note: currently we do not accept passing scores on the CBEST, CSET, or TWE as substitution for the GWR.)

Petition for GWR Substitution

How to Petition to Substitute Alternate Criteria for GWR Completion

Graduation Writing Requirement (GWR) milestone completion may be granted to students who have completed a similar requirement at another college or university. You may submit a petition to substitute alternate criteria for the GWR if you fit into one of the following categories:

- You are a transfer student with 90 or more units and you completed your GWR at another California State University (CSU) campus. Please submit official documentation from your previous CSU that confirms completion of the requirement.
- You have earned a bachelor's degree from a CSU or University of California (UC) campus. Please submit an unofficial copy of your transcript with degree conferral date.
- You have earned a bachelor's degree from a U.S.-accredited college or university that has an upper-division writing requirement. Please provide an unofficial copy of your transcripts with degree conferral date. If your transcripts do not specify that you have fulfilled an upper-division writing requirement, you must also provide evidence, such as a catalog excerpt, to indicate that the school has the requirement for all of its students.
- You have earned a master's or higher-level graduate degree at a U.S.-accredited college or university. Please provide an unofficial copy of your final transcript with degree conferral date.
- You have earned a score of 5 or higher on the analytical writing section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Please provide a copy of your GRE scores.
- You have earned a grade of C or better in an upper-division, writing intensive course at another U.S.-accredited, four-year college or university with work equivalent to that in one of Cal Poly's GWR-approved courses. Note: If you petition to substitute coursework for GWR completion, then that coursework must meet the same standards that Cal Poly applies to its own students in GWR-approved courses.

If you are required to fulfill the GWR, there are two options for doing so:

1. Pass the [Writing Proficiency Exam \(WPE\)](#)
2. Enroll in a [GWR-approved upper-division course](#) and earn a C grade or better

San Marcos

https://www.csusm.edu/policies/active/documents/graduate_writing_assessment_requirement.html

Procedure

I. This Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement: Graduate Level (GWARGL) applies to graduate students enrolled in master's programs.

II. The writing requirement must be completed before a graduate student advances to candidacy. A student may satisfy the GWARGL in one of two ways:

- an acceptable standardized test score, such as the Analytical Writing subtest of the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) or the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)
- a paper(s) that receive(s) a passing score as described in Point 5 below.

III. The College/Department/Program from which the student will receive the graduate degree determines the manner by which a student satisfies or does not satisfy the GWARGL.

IV. The College/Department/Program from which the student will receive the graduate degree determines the passing score on standardized tests.

V. If a student is satisfying the graduate writing requirement through a submission of a paper(s), the student's writing should demonstrate graduate level skills in:

- style and format
- mechanics
- content and organization
- integration and critical analysis.

VI. The paper(s) will be scored using a rubric (1 - 4) in each of four areas (See Appendix A.): "I. Style and Format", "II. Mechanics", "III. Content and Organization", and "IV. Integration and Critical Analysis". The minimal acceptable combined score from all of the four (I-IV) sections is 10 points, with no scores of "1" on any section, resulting in a minimum of a 2.5 average for all sections. A master's program may establish a higher minimum average score for passing.Â

VII. Each master's program will have a remediation protocol for admitted graduate students who do not satisfy the GVARGL on their first attempt. Each master's program will specify the maximum number of attempts that students may be allowed to satisfy the GVARGL.

VIII. Each master's program will file its respective GVARGL and remediation protocol with the Office of Graduate Studies and Research (OGSR). Each master's program will provide the OGSR with annual aggregate student GVARGL performance data.

Sonoma

Graduate Level Writing Proficiency Requirement

In order to assure that graduate students possess the ability to communicate effectively in written English and the skills to write a thesis or comprehensive examination in a particular discipline, advancement to classified standing will be contingent upon fulfillment of the Written English Proficiency Test (WEPT) requirement, or fulfillment of departmentally-administered review procedures which have been approved by the Graduate Studies Committee.

Stanislaus

Graduate Writing Proficiency Requirement

All graduate students must demonstrate competency in writing skills in English to meet the requirement for a master's degree. A candidate for an advanced degree can satisfy the CSU writing requirement by (a) satisfactory completion of the course designated by the department as assessing writing proficiency in standard English or (b) satisfactory completion of an alternative plan adopted by the department and approved by the Graduate Council. Candidates should consult the appropriate department for specific details.