

University Writing Skills Requirement (UWSR/GWAR) Writing Skills Test (WST) - Information Essentials

The following is a shortened version of the information you are responsible for reviewing prior to registering and taking your [Writing Skills Test](#). Note: Effective Fall Quarter 2004, you can choose to satisfy the requirement by passing a first tier course i.e. ENGL 300 or ENGL 301 (and possibly a second tier course ENGL 302 or MKTG 305 as well) rather than attempting the Writing Skills Test. You can find more information about the course option on the [Testing Office Website](#).

The purpose of the University Writing Skills Requirement

In addition to the lower-division General Education requirements in writing, in Fall 1977, the California State University system began to require all students to demonstrate writing competency at an advanced level in order to receive a degree. You must satisfy the University Writing Skills Requirement (UWSR) in order to receive a degree from CSUEB unless you previously satisfied the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) at CSUEB (or Hayward) or at another CSU campus or qualify for an [exemption](#).

Who must satisfy the UWSR and may do so by taking the WST?

- As soon as you have completed 60 semester units, you will be required to begin steps to satisfy the University Writing Skills Requirement. Undergraduate students cannot satisfy this requirement before completing 60 semester units (90 Quarter units). For undergraduate students, completion of GE Area A2 and ENGL 200 (ENGL 1002) or another approved second composition course, which are graduation degree requirements, is also required before attempting to satisfy the UWSR.
- Graduates must begin work on the UWSR by the end of their 1st semester. "Begin work" means you must either take the WST or complete a first-tier ENGL 300 or ENGL 301 course.

You may be exempt from the UWSR if you have an acceptable score on the written portion of the CBEST, GRE, or GMAT or if you met the UWSR or GWAR at another CSU. For a list of exemptions, see the [Testing Office Website](#).

Date, Time and place of the WST

- The WST is given several times during each semester at the Hayward and Concord Campus and Oakland Center. Dates for the written version of the WST and the Limited Administration – Computer Version are available throughout the semester. WST exam dates can be found at the [Testing Office Website](#).
- Your location, room and time will be on your admission ticket (for regular administrations) which will be emailed to your Horizon account at least one week prior to the test date. If you have not received your admission ticket by the Wednesday before your exam date, contact our Testing Office at testing.office@csueastbay.edu.
- Admission tickets will NOT be emailed for the Limited Administration – Computer version of the test; you will need to print your online registration confirmation for your reference and records.

Registration information

- You can register for the WST on [MYCSUEB](#).
- WST – Regular Administration (Paper Version) fee is \$25.00.
- WST – Limited Administration (Computer Version) fee is \$50.00.

Alternative accommodations for the WST

- Contact [Accessibility Services](#) at 510-885-3868.

Essay topics

- The WST topics are no longer published. You will have a choice of two topics. A list of sample topics, for practice, is available at the [Testing Office Website](#).

Preparing for the WST

- The Student Center of Academic Achievement ([SCAA](#)) offers workshops for the WST throughout each quarter.
- The WST is a measurement of current performance in analytic writing, so you should familiarize yourself with the structure, administration, and evaluation of the exam. Review all the [preparation](#) information before test day.

On the day of the test

- Go to <http://www.csueastbay.edu/academic/colleges-and-departments/apgs/testing/testday.html> for a complete summary of what occurs on the day you take the WST. You are accountable and responsible for reviewing this information, especially in regards to admissions, restricted items, and the timing of the exam.

Essay scoring

- Your essay will be scored by two independent readers; these are faculty members from many different disciplines who are trained to evaluate the essays “holistically”; that is, with a single assessment for overall quality. Each reader determines the essay score, and they both must agree or a third reader scores the essay independently; the two agreeing readers’ score is the score you will receive.
- Review the [scoring rubric](#) carefully before attempting the WST. There is no numerical score assigned to the WST results. Numbers you see are for coding purposes only.
- Sample evaluated essays are available at the [Testing Office Website](#).

Test results

- Your results will be emailed to your Horizon email account approximately six to eight weeks after the exam.
- To look up test results, go to MyCSUEB, Student Center, My Academics then CSU FacGrad Campus Page.
- 6 (Limited Competence), 7 (Developing Competence), or 8 (Clear Competence) P/F (Pass/Fail) = 1 or 2, (1 = Pass, 2 = Fail.)