San Diego State University  
Testing Services  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Writing Placement Assessment  
(updated April 21, 2020)

The Writing Placement Assessment FAQs apply to students who have or are achieving 60 units in spring 2020.

1. I have a WPA hold for fall 2020 registration. What do I do?

All WPA holds for fall 2020 registration have been lifted. You will be allowed to enroll directly into an appropriate upper-division writing class. The WPA will not be required for students who have achieved 60 units or who are achieving 60 units as of spring 2020.

2. Will I be issued a refund for the Writing Placement Assessment that I was scheduled to take in March or April 2020?

Testing Services, in collaboration with Student Account Services, is in the process of issuing refunds to all students who registered and paid for the WPA for the March 13, March 14 or April 11 administration. Refunds will be issued in the same form in which the payment was made.

- **Checks, money orders, certified funds, cash, and debit** payments will receive a refund in the form of a check from SDSU (sent to the address on file with the Registrar)
- **Electronic check** (ACH) payments will receive a refund back to the account used for payment
- **Credit card** payments will receive a refund back to the credit card used for payment
- **Third party** (employer, government, sponsor, etc.) payments will be refunded back to the third party per sections 41802 of Title 5 in the CA Code of Regulations and the Return to Title IV calculations.

3. When do I have to take the upper division writing course?

You must take the upper division writing course to satisfy the CSU Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) before you can graduate. You are encouraged to enroll in an upper division writing course as soon as possible so you do not delay your graduation.
4. **How do I know if I should take RWS 280 or LING 281 before the upper division writing course?**

   If you previously took the Writing Placement Assessment and scored a 6 or below, you are encouraged to enroll in RWS 280 or LING 281 before you enroll in the upper division writing course. If you are not sure if you should take RWS 280 or LING 281, please consult with Jamie Madden at jmadden@sdsu.edu in the RWS department.

5. **If I take my upper division writing course in fall 2020 will my hold for spring 2021 be removed?**

   Yes. Taking an upper division writing course and earning a C or higher grade will satisfy the CSU Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR).

6. **Where can I find the list of upper division writing courses?**

   The list of upper division writing courses can be found under the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) section in the Graduation Requirements section of the SDSU General Catalog.

7. **I already took the WPA and planned to take it again to try and get a higher score. Can I take the exam when WPA testing resumes?**

   Due to the circumstances of COVID 19 and the unknown of when WPA testing will resume, you are encouraged to take the upper division writing course as soon as possible to clear the GWAR requirement. If you prefer, you can take the WPA once the in-person exam is offered, but you will need to take the WPA prior to your last semester so that you will have time to take an upper division writing course if needed.

8. **I want to take the WPA when testing resumes and try to score a 10 so I do not have to take an upper division writing course. Can I take the exam when WPA testing resumes?**

   Due to the circumstances of COVID 19 and the unknown of when WPA testing will resume, you are encouraged to take the upper division writing course as soon as possible to clear the GWAR requirement. If you prefer, you can take the WPA once the in-person exam is offered, but you will need to take the WPA prior to your last semester so that you will have time to take an upper division writing course if needed.
If the university is eliminating the GWAR requirement, why do I have to take an upper division writing course?

The California State University (CSU) is not eliminating the GWAR requirement, the method by which you satisfy the GWAR requirement at SDSU has been temporarily changed due to COVID 19. The WPA has been temporarily suspended until we return to campus to give the in-person test. In order to allow students to progress to their degree completion, the University Senate voted to allow students to move directly into an upper division course without taking the WPA.

Is the university giving everyone a score of 8 on the WPA?

Only students who have already taken the WPA and earned a score of 8 will receive a score of 8. Students who have not yet taken the WPA will be allowed to move directly to an upper division course without taking or receiving a score on the WPA.

I am an incoming Fall 2020 transfer student. Does this apply to me?

Yes. As an incoming fall 2020 transfer student, you will be allowed to enroll directly into an upper division writing course without taking the WPA.

I will be achieving 60 units in Fall 2020. Does this apply to me?

If you have additional questions on your specific degree requirements, please email Advising and Evaluations at sdsu_advising@sdsu.edu. The WPA has only been waived for students who have already achieved 60 units or who are achieving 60 units this semester (spring 2020). Students achieving 60 units in fall 2020 and beyond, will be expected to take the WPA if we are back on campus. If we are not back on campus in the fall, the WPA waiver may be extended. A decision will be made at a later date. If you have additional advising questions, please contact sdsu_advising@sdsu.edu.