WRITING PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT (WPA)

> **In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and as a result of the "stay at home" order issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom, all in-person testing has been suspended until further notice. SDSU continues to monitor the evolving situation around COVID-19 and follow the guidance of our national, state and local government officials as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**
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> **The WPA will NOT be required for students who have achieved 60 units or who are achieving 60 units as of spring 2020. These students will be allowed to enroll directly into an appropriate upper-division writing class and need to review the WPA Frequently Asked Questions. After reviewing the WPA FAQs, if you have additional inquiries, please email sdsu_advising@sdsu.edu**

The California State University System (CSU) adopted the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR), requiring that **all undergraduate students** demonstrate competency in writing skills at the upper division level as a requirement for the baccalaureate degree within the California State University System (CSU). (Students seeking a second bachelor's degree in nursing have satisfied the GWAR with their first baccalaureate degree from a college/university accredited by a regional accrediting association.) At San Diego State University, the **Writing Placement Assessment (WPA)** is a two-hour examination used to evaluate writing competency.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SATISFYING THE GWAR REQUIREMENT

- **Continuing students who have or will achieve 60 units by the end of spring 2020.** The WPA requirement has been waived for continuing students who have or will achieve 60 units by the end of spring 2020. These students will be able to enroll directly into an approved upper division writing course. Completion of an approved upper division writing course with a "C" or better will fulfill the GWAR for your bachelor's degree.

  Alternatively, if you feel you would benefit from an additional writing course, you may choose to begin with RWS 280: Academic Reading and Writing or LING 281: Academic Reading and Writing for Second Language Learners or International Students, and then complete one of the approved upper division writing courses to fulfill the GWAR.

- **New Transfer Students for fall 2020.** The WPA requirement has been waived for newly admitted transfer students for fall 2020. These students will be able to enroll directly into an appropriate upper division writing course to fulfill the CSU GWAR requirement. *The following majors require a specific upper division writing course: English, History, Journalism and Media Studies, Liberal Studies, Linguistics, Management Information Systems, Religious Studies, and Rhetoric and Writing Studies.*

  Alternatively, if you feel you would benefit from an additional writing course, you may choose to begin with RWS 280: Academic Reading and Writing or LING 281: Academic

Reading and Writing for Second Language Learners or International Students, and then complete one of the approved upper division writing courses to fulfill the GWAR.

- **Students who transfer from another California State University campus** having fulfilled the GWAR will not be required to repeat it. However, a course listed below may be required for the major. **Contact the Academic Advising Center if you believe you have fulfilled this requirement at another CSU.**

Approved Upper Division Writing Courses

Accountancy 390W
Africana Studies 305W
Chicana and Chicano Studies 396W
Economics 449W
English 306W (Liberal Studies majors Only)
English 308W
English 508W (Required for English and Comparative Literature majors; open to other majors)
English 581W
English 584W
History 390W
Humanities 390W
Journalism and Media Studies 310W
Journalism and Media Studies 312W
Linguistics 305W
Management Information Systems 396W
Political Science 390W
Recreation, Tourism and Management 396W
Religious Studies 396W
Rhetoric and Writing Studies 305W
Rhetoric and Writing Studies 390W
Rhetoric and Writing Studies 392W
Rhetoric and Writing Studies 500W
Rhetoric and Writing Studies 503W
Rhetoric and Writing Studies 508W
Teacher Education 405W

WPA SCORING INFORMATION

- Students who achieve a score of **10** on the WPA satisfy the statewide GWAR and do not have to take a writing course **unless an upper division writing course is required by the major.**

- Students who achieve a score of **8** are required to satisfy the GWAR by completing an approved upper division writing course with a grade of C or higher. See the list above.

- Students who earn a score of **6 or lower** are required to complete Rhetoric and Writing Studies 280 (or Linguistics 281 if English is your second language) with a grade of C or higher before enrolling in one of the approved upper division writing courses. **The SDSU class registration system will require students who earn a 6 or lower to register for the required course in the semester immediately following the test date.** Once students are enrolled in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 280 or Linguistics 281, they may not take the WPA to test out of an upper division writing course. Students are allowed to attempt the WPA twice within the time-frames and restrictions described above. Students may not drop a course in which they are registered if test results are received after the schedule adjustment deadline. Students must pay the required fees for the examination each time it is taken. Fees are non-refundable.

Preparation for the Writing Placement Assessment

Students are **strongly encouraged** to prepare in advance for attempting the Writing Placement Assessment. In addition to the general testing information found here, the **WPA Information & Preparation Site** contains study materials, test-taking strategies, and sample essays.

Students Requesting Accommodations

Students with accommodations already authorized by the SDSU Student Ability Success Center (SASC), **and placed on the SDSU Testing Services reservation system by SASC**, will be offered an accommodated test session automatically during online test registration. SASC information can be found at http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/sds/ .

Information contained herein is subject to change without notice.