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.

- **Continuing students who do not achieve 60 units by the end of spring 2020.** Must take the WPA during the semester in which they are completing 60 units or in the semester immediately following. **Students must take the WPA within this time frame. If you do not take the WPA and receive the scores by the end of the required time frame you will not be able to register for future terms.**

  Students may file a leave of absence for the next semester and maintain continuing student status. If the examination is completed during the leave of absence, the student may re-enroll the following semester. Students who have not taken the examination by the end of the leave of absence term will be required to file another leave of absence to
maintain eligibility until the examination has been taken and a score is posted on the record. Students are allowed a maximum of four leaves of absence.

- **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.

**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 below.

- 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.

**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 500W
Rhetoric and Writing Studies 503W
Rhetoric and Writing Studies 508W

**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](http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/sds/) 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/](http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/sds/).

*Information contained herein is subject to change without notice.*