

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (Revised)

(Approved 5/28/2021)

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement/Upper Division Writing Proficiency Examination (Revised)

All students must demonstrate competency in writing skills as a requirement for graduation. At CSUN, all students who have met the lower division writing requirement, completed 56 units or more, and intend to graduate with a baccalaureate or master's degree are required to demonstrate their writing proficiency in one of two ways.

1. Students may pass an essay examination as a demonstration of their proficiency in writing. The Upper Division Writing Proficiency Exam will be offered throughout the academic year. See the [Testing Center](#) website for test dates, test fee and registration.
2. Students may meet the GWAR requirement by receiving a grade of C or better in a minimum of 6 units of coursework in the upper division portion of the General Education curriculum.

Undergraduate students are required to meet the Graduation Writing Requirement no later than the semester in which they complete 90 units. Students who have not met this requirement by the completion of 90 units will have a registration hold placed on their subsequent registration.

In addition, the policy for the Bachelor's Degree requirements should be amended to reflect the new policy:

Bachelor's Degree Requirements (Revised)**Upper Division Requirement**

The University has implemented the Trustee Policy for the Writing Skills Graduation Requirement (GWAR) for all upper division students who will graduate in Spring 1982 or thereafter in one of two ways. Students who have completed 56 units and have met the lower division writing requirement will be required to take an essay examination or to meet the requirement through General Education coursework.

- a. Meeting the GWAR through the [Upper Division Writing Proficiency Examination \(UDWPE\)](#):

- i. as early as possible after completing 60 units, and must take the UDWPE no later than the semester in which 90 units are completed. Students who have not taken the UDWPE or completed the General Education coursework requirement (see below) by the completion of 90 units will have an advisement hold placed on their subsequent registration(s).
 - ii. Students who fail the exam will be permitted to repeat the examination. Students are strongly urged to make an appointment with a writing consultant at the [Learning Resource Center](#) by calling (818) 677-2033. This service is offered at no cost to students. Consultations may be available during the Summer (from June to August) on a limited basis.
 - iii. The examination will consist of an essay on an assigned topic evaluated by the faculty.
 - iv. The criteria of evaluation will include: (1) a demonstration of analytic skills; (2) use of relevant evidence to support an argument; (3) effective organization; and (4) use of standard English grammar, diction and mechanics.
 - v. Administrations of the examination will be announced on the [Testing Center](#) website, as well as in other official University publications.
 - vi. The examination will be scheduled at least five times within an academic year.
- b. Students may demonstrate writing proficiency by receiving a grade of C or better in six units (usually two courses) of Upper Division General Education at CSUN. Note that a grade of C- or lower in Upper Division General Education will meet the General Education requirement but not the GVAR requirement and articulated upper division coursework transferred from another institution do not meet this requirement.
 - c. Certification of graduation writing competence will be transferable from one CSU campus to another. However, students must pass the GVAR at the campus at which they are matriculated.