Early Start 2018 FAQ

What is Early Start?
The California State University (CSU) system Early Start Program is for admitted first-time freshmen who need additional academic support and skills development in mathematics/quantitative reasoning and/or written communication based on system-wide placement standards. The goals of the Early Start Program are to:

- Better prepare students in mathematics/quantitative reasoning and written communication in the summer before the start of the fall semester of the freshman year;
- Add an important and timely assessment tool in preparing students for college; and
- Improve the opportunity for students to successfully complete their college degrees.

Do I need to participate in Early Start?
There are three possible statuses for Early Start participation for first-time freshmen admitted to California State University, Northridge (CSUN). Students can be exempt from, strongly encouraged or required to participate in Early Start this summer based on system-wide placement standards. A visit to the CSU Smart Page will provide information on your participation status. If you need help finding and navigating the CSU Smart Page, visit CSUN’s Early Start Program website.

- If the CSU Smart Page says that participation is required in either Early Start Math or Early Start Writing, then you must enroll in an Early Start class.
- If the CSU Smart Page indicates that your placement in either written communication or mathematics/quantitative reasoning includes additional academic support (even if it says Early Start is not required) you are strongly encouraged to enroll in an Early Start class. Early Start will provide an opportunity to move up in your fall placement and it could reduce the time it takes to earn your degree.
- If the CSU Smart Page says that you are exempt from both Early Start Math and Early Start Writing, then you do not need to enroll in an Early Start class; however, if you intend to major in environmental and occupational health, kinesiology exercise science, science, technology, engineering or mathematics, you should take advantage of our Early STEM program this summer. Early STEM provides you with an opportunity to improve your fall math and physics placement. For more information visit our Early STEM website.

Can I have different Early Start participation statuses for mathematics/quantitative reasoning and written communication?
Yes, but remember that if either your mathematics/quantitative reasoning or written communication participation status says required, then you must participate in Early Start this summer.
What happens if Early Start is required and I don’t participate?
If the CSU Smart Page indicates that you are required to participate in Early Start and you do not do so, then you will forfeit your Fall 2018 admission to CSUN, be blocked from enrolling in Fall 2018 classes and you will need to reapply to CSUN in the future as either a first-time freshman or an upper-division transfer student.

The CSU Smart Page says Early Start Math (ESM) and Early Start Writing (ESW) are required. Do I need to take both?
No, you are welcome and encouraged to enroll in both Early Start Math and Early Start Writing if you wish to do so to better prepare for college, but you are only required to enroll in one Early Start class.

The CSU Smart Page says I am required or strongly encouraged to enroll in both Early Start Math (ESM) and Early Start Writing (ESW), but I only want to take one class. Which one should I choose?
You should select the class option that will best prepare you for your academic career at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). Students planning to major in business, economics, environmental and occupational health, kinesiology exercise science, science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) disciplines should seriously consider enrolling in Early Start Math (ESM). CSUN’s ESM courses provide students with an opportunity to move up in their fall mathematics/quantitative reasoning placement, which may reduce time to degree completion for STEM-based majors. If your major is Exploratory, you should select the Early Start Math class that is best suited for your intended major.

Do I have to enroll in Early Start at CSUN or can I take it at another CSU campus?
Early Start requirements may be fulfilled at any CSU campus; however, we believe in your success so we’ve defaulted the CSU Smart Page to CSUN for you. If you plan to become a Matador, completing Early Start at CSUN will help you familiarize yourself with our faculty and facilities. Past students have gone on to more successful academic careers as a result. You will need to visit the CSU Smart Page to change your choice to a different CSU campus.

Can I take Early Start at a community college?
No. There are no Los Angeles or Ventura area community colleges with approved Early Start classes.

What is the last day I can change my CSU campus choice for Early Start participation on the Smart Page?
The last day to change your CSU campus choice on the Smart Page is June 15, 2018.

When does the CSU Smart Page open and close at CSUN?
It will open on April 16 and close on June 15, 2018.

When can I enroll in Early Start classes at CSUN?
Registration for Early Start classes at CSUN will begin on April 18 and end on July 3, 2018.

When is Early Start Math (ESM) being offered at CSUN in summer 2018?
We will run multiple sections of three, face-to-face courses beginning June 18. There are no fully
online ESM courses offered at CSUN for Summer 2018.

Destination students (those who will attend CSUN in Fall 2018) may choose from the following ESM courses:

- ESM 99 (3 units)  
  June 18 through July 30 (6 weeks)
- ESM 196QR (3 units)  
  June 18 through July 30 (6 weeks)
- ESM 091A (1 unit)  
  June 25 through August 1 (6 weeks)  
  July 9 through August 1 (3 weeks)

Service students (those who will attend another CSU in Fall 2018) may choose from the following ESM courses:

- ESM 91A (1 unit)  
  June 25 through August 1 (6 weeks)  
  July 9 through August 1 (3 weeks)

The 3-unit and 6-week Early Start Math courses (ESM 99 and ESM 196QR) have the highest success rates with more students moving up in fall math placement. We encourage students to take the longer versions of the classes if at all possible.

**How do I know which Early Start Math class to take?**

ESM 99 is restricted to students majoring in business, economics, environmental and occupational health, kinesiology exercise science, science, technology, engineering or mathematics disciplines. These are often referred to as STEM majors. (Destination students only)

ESM 196QR is available for all other majors. These are often referred to as non-STEM majors. (Destination students only)

ESM 91A is available to any student. (Destination or Service students)

Exploratory majors may take ESM 196QR, ESM 99 or ESM 91A based on the major they intend to pursue in the future.

If you need help enrolling in Early Start classes at CSUN, visit our Early Start Guide.

**Are the Early Start Math classes online?**

No, but CSUN’s ESM 91A classes are somewhat flexible with fewer on-campus hours required. If a student needs an entirely online experience, they will need to complete ESM at another CSU campus. We encourage CSUN students to complete Early Start Math on our campus if at all possible.
Can I improve my fall placement in mathematics/quantitative reasoning by completing Early Start Math?
Yes, but it requires passing a proctored, in-person final assessment.

Is tutoring available for Early Start Math classes?
Yes, the Developmental Math Program Lab, located in Bayramian Hall Room 402, will have math tutors available this summer for students who want to come to campus for academic support.

When is Early Start Writing being offered at CSUN in Summer 2018?
There are four sessions available:
June 11 through June 29 (3 weeks)
July 2 through July 20 (3 weeks)
July 11 through August 21 (6 weeks)
July 16 through August 3 (3 weeks)

Are there two Early Start Writing (ESW) class choices?
Yes, we are offering two different choices.

ESW 99 is a 1-unit, 3-week-long class available to both destination (those who will attend CSUN in Fall 2018) and service students (those who will attend another CSU in Fall 2018).

CSUN destination students also have the unique opportunity to participate in a pilot program that combines ESW 99 (1 unit) with a General Education course (3 units) in their choice of University 100: Freshman Seminar or Central American Studies 100: Introduction to Central American Studies.

Can I improve my fall placement in written communication placement by completing Early Start Writing?
Yes, but only upon recommendation by faculty and only if you complete Early Start writing at CSUN with a grade of CR at CSUN. The Early Start writing course is designed to help you improve your reading and writing skills and be successful in your freshman level writing course. CSUN students cannot move up in writing if they complete Early Start Writing at another CSU campus.

Are the Early Start Writing classes online?
The 1-unit, 3-week ESW 99 classes are fully online. No in-person meetings are required.

The 1-unit, 6-week ESW 99 classes that are combined with the General Education classes (3 units) are hybrid, which means you will work both online and on-campus. The ESW 99 classes are taught partly online and partly in-person. The General Education classes are taught in-person.

Is tutoring available for Early Start Writing classes?
The Learning Resource Center, located in the Oviatt Library 3rd Floor, East Wing, will have writing tutors available this summer for students who want to come to campus for academic support.

How do I enroll in Early Start classes?
Admissions and Records created a step-by-step guide just for you!
Do I have to pay for Early Start classes?
Yes, students have to pay for Early Start unless they have a waiver of fees, based on financial aid requirements.

Who qualifies for an Early Start fee waiver?
Any student who completed a financial aid application by the March 2, 2018 priority deadline with an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) of $5,000 or less will qualify for the fee waiver. The CSU Smart Page will tell you if you qualify for a fee waiver for Early Start classes.

I don’t have an Early Start fee waiver. How much does it cost?
ESW 99 classes combined with a General Education class cost $730 (4-units)
ESM 99 and ESM 196QR classes cost $548 (3-units)
ESM 91A classes cost $184 (1-unit)
ESW 99 classes cost $184 (1-unit)

When is payment due?
You must pay within 2 hours of enrolling in Early Start class(es) if you don’t have a fee waiver on the CSU Smart Page.

What happens if I don’t pay?
You will be dropped from your Early Start class(es) and you will have to re-enroll.

How do I pay?
There is a payment link on the Early Start portion of your myNorthridge portal Home tab.

Are there other exemptions from Early Start?
The following student groups will not be required to participate in the CSUN Early Start Program:

- Students who have already fulfilled college-level written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning requirements
- Students who are deemed ready for college-level written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses without additional support
- Students who are deemed ready for college-level written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses that include additional academic support. This includes students who are deemed conditionally ready for college-level courses in these two areas based on EAP/CAASPP, SAT or ACT and who satisfy the remaining condition. Early Start participation is strongly encouraged.
- International students
- Residents of other states
- Students participating in the CSUN EOP Summer Bridge Program
- Students who qualify for admission through the CSUN EOP Program
- Students enrolled in CSUN’s MARC/MBRS Math and Language Arts Summer Enrichment Program
Students enrolled in CSUN's Student Athlete Summer Success Program

Students participating CSUN's Early STEM Program

Students admitted to CSUN after June 14, 2018

Students who believe they should be exempted from the Early Start requirement because of a disability should contact CSUN's Disabilities Resources and Educational Services (DRES) or the National Center on Deafness (NCOD).

Who should I call if I have problems with the CSU Smart Page?
Admissions and Records
(818) 677-3700

Who should I call if I have problems with enrolling in Early Start classes?
Admissions and Records
(818) 677-3700
Online help: How to Enroll in Early Start Classes

Who should I call if I have problems with paying for the classes?
The Tseng College of Extended Learning
(818) 677-2504

Who should I call if I am having trouble accessing Canvas?
The faculty member teaching the course can assist you with Canvas, CSUN's online learning management system. You can also call:
CSUN's Canvas Help Center
(818) 677-3443, and press 1
Online help: Canvas Guides

Who should I call if I am having trouble accessing my CSUN email?
The CSUN IT Help Desk
(818) 677-1400
Online help: Access and Manage CSUN Email

Who should I contact if I have questions about Early Start Math classes?
For questions about Early Start Math:
Developmental Mathematics
(818) 677-2231

Who should I contact for general questions about Early Start or questions about Early Start Writing classes?
Undergraduate Studies
(818) 677-2969 or ugs@csun.edu

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