

## Early Start 2019 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. A visit to the Early Start Program Page will provide information on your participation status. If you need help finding and navigating the Early Start Program Page, visit [CSUN's Early Start Program website](#).

- If the Early Start Program 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 Early Start Program Page indicates that your placement in either written communication or mathematics/quantitative reasoning includes additional academic support, 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 Early Start Program 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.

### 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 Early Start Program page indicates that you are required to participate in Early Start and you do not do so, then you will be required to take a supported course(s) in Fall 2019 and you miss out on the opportunity to improve your fall placement.

**The Early Start Program Page says Early Start Math (ESM) and Early Start Writing (ESW) are required. Do I need to take both?**

No, you are only required to enroll in one Early Start class. However, you are welcome to enroll in both Early Start Math and Early Start Writing if you wish to do so to better prepare for college.

**The Early Start Program 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 STEM disciplines including environmental and occupational health, kinesiology exercise science, science, technology, engineering and math as well students majoring in business and economics 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 the Early Start Program Page defaults 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 Early Start Program 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?**

The last day to change your CSU campus choice on the Early Start Program Page is June 15, 2019.

**When does the Early Start Program Page open and close at CSUN?**

It will open on May 6 and close on June 15, 2019.

**When can I enroll in Early Start classes at CSUN?**

Registration for Early Start classes at CSUN will begin on May 6 and end on June 16, 2019 for CSUN students. For hosted students (students attending another CSU campus in Fall 2019), Early Start registration ends on June 23, 2019. Students must add classes no later than the day before instruction begins.

**When is Early Start Math (ESM) being offered at CSUN in summer 2019?**

We are offering multiple sections of three, face-to-face courses beginning June 17, 2019. There are no fully online ESM courses offered at CSUN for Summer 2019.

CSUN students may choose from the following ESM courses:

- ESM 196QR (3 units) and UNIV 60Z (1 unit)  
June 17 through July 29 (6 weeks)
- ESM 196S (3 units) and UNIV 60Z (1 unit)  
June 17 through July 29 (6 weeks)

Hosted students (those who will attend another CSU in Fall 2019) may choose from the following ESM course:

- ESM 196P (1 unit) and UNIV 60Z (1 unit)  
June 24 through August 2 (6 weeks)

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

ESM 196QR and UNIV 60Z are restricted to CSUN students in non-STEM majors, including business and economics.

ESM 196S and UNIV 60Z are restricted to CSUN students majoring in STEM disciplines including, environmental and occupational health, kinesiology exercise science, science, technology, engineering or mathematics disciplines.

CSUN Exploratory majors may take ESM 196QR and UNIV 60Z or ESM 196S and UNIV 60Z based on the major they intend to pursue in the future.

ESM 196P is available exclusively to hosted students (students attending another CSU campus in Fall 2019) in STEM or non-STEM majors.

If you need help enrolling in Early Start classes at CSUN, visit our [Early Start Guide](#).

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

No, 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, successful completion of ESM, including passage of a proctored, in-person final assessment, makes students eligible or conditionally eligible for enrollment in many General Education mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses.

### **Is tutoring available for Early Start Math classes?**

Yes, the [Math Department](#) is offering free tutoring in Bayramian Hall Room 400.

### **When is Early Start Writing being offered at CSUN in Summer 2019?**

We are offering face-to-face courses beginning June 10, 2019. There are no fully online ESW courses offered at CSUN for Summer 2019. CSUN and hosted students (those attending another CSU campus in Fall 2019) may choose the following ESW course:

- ESW 113A (3 units) and UNIV 61 (1 unit)  
June 10 through August 2 (8 weeks)

**Can I improve my fall placement in written communication placement by completing Early Start Writing?**

ESW 113A and UNIV 61 are the first courses in our freshman stretch writing sequence. Successful completion of ESW 113A and UNIV 61 allows students to enroll in General Education writing 113B and UNIV 62 in Fall 2019.

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

No, if a student needs an entirely online experience, they will need to complete ESW at another CSU campus. We encourage CSUN students to complete Early Start Writing on our campus if at all possible.

**Is tutoring available for Early Start Writing classes?**

Yes, the Learning Resource Center, located in the Oviatt Library 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, East Wing, will offer free tutoring in writing.

**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, 2019 priority deadline with an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) of \$5,500 or less will qualify for the fee waiver. The Early Start Program 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?**

The cost is \$191 per unit. In addition, a one-time Summer 2019 mandatory \$2.00 campus fee will be applied to all Early Start enrollment.

ESW 113A and UNIV 61 classes cost \$766 (4 units)  
ESM 196QR and UNIV 60Z classes cost \$766 (4 units)  
ESM 196S and UNIV 60Z classes cost \$766 (4 units)  
ESM 196P and UNIV 60Z classes cost \$384 (2 units)

**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 Early Start Program 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 admitted to CSUN after May 31, 2019

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 Early Start Program 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:

[Math Department](#)

(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](mailto:ugs@csun.edu)

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