

Undergraduate Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)

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<http://www.al.csus.edu/writing/gewritingrequirements/gGwar.php>

**FOR UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS ONLY**

► What is the Undergraduate GWAR?

The GWAR is a CSU wide requirement that should be completed by undergraduate and second bachelor's students in the junior year. The purpose of the GWAR is for students to demonstrate their proficiency at writing in an academic setting at an upper-division level. The GWAR requires a two-step process:

Step 1: Receive a GWAR Placement

Step 2: Take a Writing Intensive class (with or without additional writing instruction dependent on your placement).

► When should I start the Undergraduate GWAR Placement Process?

Once you have completed your sophomore-level writing class and are a junior who has 60 units towards your degree, you may start the Undergraduate GWAR Placement Process.

Transfer Students: If you satisfied the GWAR at another CSU campus, contact the Writing Programs office to see how you can transfer that completed requirement from your previous campus to Sac State.

Second Bachelor's Students: If your first bachelor's degree is from a non-CSU campus or a CSU campus, you may have already completed the GWAR requirements. Contact the Writing Programs office for more information.

► How do I receive an Undergraduate GWAR Placement?

You have two options for receiving your GWAR Placement. For more guidance on how to make this choice and where to get additional help, see the Undergraduate GWAR webpage (listed above).

Option 1: Take the timed Writing Placement Exam for Juniors (WPJ) exam. The exam asks students to review several texts and write an essay based on the texts.

Option 2: Take a semester-long writing class, English 109M or English 109W. This class will focus on writing in your specific major. At the end of the semester, your revised work will be collected in a portfolio that will be evaluated. Students who are multilingual can choose 109M or 109W. Students who are native English-speakers should choose English 109W.

► What are the Undergraduate GWAR Placements?

The GWAR Placement determines whether you will need additional writing instruction or assistance before or during your Writing Intensive class. The placements are described below:

You will see	What it means
90	Placement fulfilled at another CSU campus. Pass a Writing Intensive course with a 'C-' or higher to meet General Education/Graduation Requirements.
80	3-unit placement - Pass a Writing Intensive course with a 'C-' or higher
70	4-unit placement - Pass a Writing Intensive course and ENGL 109X concurrently
60	6-unit placement - Pass ENGL 109W, then pass a Writing Intensive course with a 'C-' or higher
50	6-unit placement - Pass ENGL 109M, then pass a Writing Intensive course with a 'C-' or higher

The Writing Placement for Juniors (WPJ)

The WPJ is a two-hour essay exam. **Students are not allowed to retake the exam as it is a placement exam.** The exam asks students to write two essays. The first essay will ask students to respond and make an argument about a topic represented by several texts. The second essay asks students to discuss their writing history and practices. On the day of the exam, bring the following (an exam booklet and scratch paper will be provided):

- two forms of photo ID (e.g. Sac State One Card, Driver's License, passport, Military ID, etc.)
- several pens and pencils (final draft must be in ink)
- printed dictionary (optional) – thesaurus and electronic dictionaries are not allowed

► WPJ Exam Dates

Upcoming Exam Dates (all take place on Saturdays)	Online Registration Available (registration closes at 12 noon on the last day listed)	Make-Up Exam Date (all take place on Wednesdays)
July 25, 2015	July 6 – July 17, 2015	July 29, 2015
October 10, 2015	September 21 – October 2, 2015	October 14, 2015
January 2, 2016	December 7 – December 18, 2015	January 6, 2016
March 12, 2016	February 22 – March 4, 2016	March 16, 2016
May 21, 2016	May 2 – May 13, 2016	May 25, 2016

► Registration & Fees

Register online at www.csus.edu/testing during the two-week period indicated above. Late registration is NOT accepted. You can request accommodations during registration for the following:

Students with Disabilities: Students who are registered with Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD) may be eligible to receive accommodations. For more information, contact SSWD in Lassen Hall 1008 (phone: 916-278-6955).

Multilingual Students: Multilingual students are eligible to receive an additional hour and fifteen minutes for the exam. Multilingual accommodations will be given to students who answer the multilingual question during online registration.

The \$25 exam fee is NONREFUNDABLE and NONTRANSFERABLE. Your exam fee will be posted to your MySacState account within 24 hours. Fees should be paid within 72 hours. Fees will be accepted in person at the Student Financial Service Center until 5pm on the last day of registration or online until Sunday after registration ends.

1. **Paying in person** at the Student Financial Services Center located in Lassen Hall room 1001. Normal Fall office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In person payment will be accepted through 5pm on the last day of registration. OR
2. **Paying online** through your MySacState Student Center, choose Account Inquiry, then click the green button to make an online payment. [Additional fees](#) will apply.

► Preparation Workshops

At the end of the registration process you will find a link to sign up for a free, one-time, one-hour informational WPJ workshop, which will give you information about the exam, show you a sample, and give you a chance to ask questions.

► Make-Up Exam

A make-up exam is available for those who aren't able to attend the exam for religious, academic, medical, or other compelling reasons. Make-up requests are only considered for those who already registered for the exam. If your request is approved, you will receive an email at your Saclink email address by 12pm on the Tuesday following the exam. To qualify for the make-up exam, students must send a request in writing according to the following instructions::

- Written requests can be sent via email to english@csus.edu or delivered to Calaveras Hall 103.
- All requests must be received by 12pm on the Monday following the original exam date.
- All requests must include the following information: 1) Name, Student ID #, Registration Confirmation #, and 2) supporting documentation (e.g. a written statement on letterhead from your clergy, proof of a conflicting exam appointment, a class schedule showing a Saturday course, a letter from your coach showing a conflicting athletic event, a doctor's note or police accident report proving an emergency on the day of the exam, etc.).

► Exam Results

Placement scores (see above for an explanation of these scores) will be made available as soon as possible—typically within three to four weeks after the exam date. You will find your score on MySacState. Go to your Student Center and select “Test Score Summary” from the drop down menu located toward the middle of the page.