



Academic Affairs  
Faculty Senate

## **POLICY ON GRADUATION WRITING ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**FAM 841.97**

### **Purpose and Scope**

This document sets forth the policies and procedures for assessing graduate students' writing proficiency to ensure that they fulfill California State University's Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement before they are granted a graduate degree.

### **Definition**

1. *GWAR*: Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement for graduate students.
2. *OGS*: Office of Graduate Studies.
3. *Student*: a matriculated student enrolled in a CSUSB master's or doctorate program.
4. *The Program*: the college, department or program from which the student will receive the graduate degree.

### **Policy Statement**

The GWAR must be satisfied before a student graduates from the program in which s/he is enrolled.

The GWAR shall be satisfied by one of the following options.

1. Take a writing intensive course with a grade "B-" or better. The program is required to obtain the approval of the OGS for this option by submitting to OGS a syllabus of the course.
2. Obtain an acceptable standardized test score, such as the Analytical Writing subtest of the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) or the Graduate Record Examinations

(GRE). Both the acceptable score and the type of test shall be determined by the program.

3. Complete a program-specific writing intensive course with a grade “B-“ or better.
4. Receive a passing score on a rigorous academic paper or papers. The paper(s) shall be evaluated in the following four areas:
  - A. Integration/Critical Analysis
  - B. Content/Organization.
  - C. Style/Format.
  - D. Grammar/Usage

The program shall determine how many papers shall be required and who shall evaluate the paper(s).

5. Complete a writing intensive thesis, comprehensive exam, or culminating project.

The program shall have a remediation mechanism for students who do not satisfy the GVAR on their first attempt. The program shall specify the maximum number of attempts that students are allowed to satisfy the GVAR.

The program shall file its GVAR option (1 through 5 above) and remediation mechanism with the OGS for approval before implementation. The program shall provide the OGS with annual aggregate student GVAR performance data.

If a student transfers to a different program, the program to which the student is transferring to has the right to accept or decline the student’s GVAR from the previous program.

Approved by the Faculty Senate on 2/19/19  
Approved by the President on 5/1/19

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