

WRITING PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT (WPA)

NOTE: ALL students registered to take the WPA, **MUST** bring a printed copy of their admission ticket to check-in to take the WPA. A copy of a confirmation or admission ticket on a cell phone will **NOT** be accepted. You will be sent to print the admission ticket and failure to return by the test time will result in a cancellation of your test and you will be required to register again and pay the \$45 registration fee.

According to the SDSU General Catalog, **all undergraduate students** must demonstrate competency in writing skills at the upper division level as a requirement for the baccalaureate degree within the California State University System (CSU). (Students seeking a second bachelor's degree in nursing have satisfied the GVAR with their first baccalaureate degree from a college/university accredited by a regional accrediting association.) The **Writing Placement Assessment (WPA)** is a two-hour examination used by SDSU to evaluate writing competency.

TESTING TIME FRAMES

Students must take the WPA within the time frames described below. Once students are enrolled in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 280 or 281 or Linguistics 281, they may not take the WPA to test out of an upper division writing course.

- **Continuing Students.** Continuing students must take the WPA during the semester in which they are completing 60 units or in the semester immediately following.
- **Transfer Students.** Transfer students are eligible to take the WPA once they have received an offer of admission. They must take the WPA by the last test date offered during their first semester at SDSU. *The following majors require the WPA as a prerequisite to upper division courses that transfer students must take their first semester; **students in these majors should take the WPA prior to attendance at New Student Orientation:** Accountancy, English, History, Journalism and Media Studies, Liberal Studies, Linguistics, Management Information Systems, Religious Studies, and Rhetoric and Writing Studies.*
- Students who transfer from another California State University campus having fulfilled the GVAR will not be required to repeat it. However, a course listed below may be required for the major. **Contact the [Academic Advising Center](#) if you believe you have fulfilled this requirement at another CSU**

Students who do not take the examination and receive the scores by the end of the required time frame will not be able to register for future terms. Scores must be received before you can register for classes. Students may file a leave of absence for the next semester and maintain continuing student status. If the examination is completed during the leave of absence, the student may re-enroll the following semester. Students who have not taken the examination by the end of the leave of absence term will be required to file another leave of absence to maintain eligibility until the examination has been taken and a score is posted on the record. Students are allowed a maximum of four leaves of absence.

SCORING INFORMATION

- Students who achieve a score of **10** on the WPA satisfy the statewide GVAR and do not have to take a writing course **unless an upper division writing course is required by the major.**
- Students who achieve a score of **8** are required to satisfy the GVAR by completing an approved upper division writing course with a grade of C or higher. See the list below.
- Students who earn a score of **6 or lower** are required to complete Rhetoric and Writing Studies 280 (or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 281, or Linguistics 281 if English is your second language) with a grade of C or higher before enrolling in one of the approved upper division writing courses. **The SDSU class registration system will require students who earn a 6 or lower to register for the required course in the semester immediately following the test date.** D. Students are allowed to attempt the WPA twice within the time-frames and restrictions described above. Students may not drop a course in which they are registered if test results are received after the schedule adjustment deadline. Students must pay the required fees for the examination each time it is taken. Fees are non-refundable.

Approved Upper Division Writing Courses

Accountancy 390W

Africana Studies 305W

Chicana and Chicano Studies 396W

Economics 449W

English 306W (Liberal Studies majors Only)

English 308W

English 508W (Required for English and Comparative Literature majors; open to other majors)

English 581W

English 584W

History 390W

Humanities 390W

Journalism and Media Studies 310W

Journalism and Media Studies 312W

Linguistics 305W

Management Information Systems 396W

Political Science 390W

Recreation, Tourism and Management 396W

Religious Studies 396W

Rhetoric and Writing Studies 305W

Rhetoric and Writing Studies 390W

Rhetoric and Writing Studies 500W

Preparation for the Writing Placement Assessment

Students are **strongly encouraged** to prepare in advance for attempting the Writing Placement Assessment. In addition to the general testing information found here, the [WPA Information & Preparation Site](#) contains study materials, test-taking strategies, and sample essays.

Free writing [presentations and workshops](#) are also offered prior to each exam.

Presentation Date	Times	Location
TBA	TBA	TBA

SDSU Testing Services also hosts a limited number of appointments with an RWS WPA Advisor (on a first-come, first-served basis) to review a WPA test taken in the prior six months. To schedule an appointment, please call (619) 594-5216. Walk-ins are not accepted.

Fee, Registration and Transfer Information

The exam fee is a non-refundable **\$45.00** and may not be transferred to another individual or to a different exam.

Once you have registered and paid for the exam, your Admission Ticket will be available to print. **You must bring a printed copy of your Admission Ticket to be admitted to your exam. Electronic copies are not acceptable.** You can access and print your Admission Ticket at the [Testing Services Student Login](#).

Exam Date	Times*	Reporting Location	Registration Deadline	Scores Released by^
Saturday, January 4, 2020	9:30am	GMCS 333	Monday, December 30, 2019	Tuesday, January 21, 2020
Saturday, February 1, 2020	8:30am 11:30am	GMCS 333	Monday, January 27, 2020	Tuesday, February 18, 2020
Saturday, February 15, 2020	8:30am 11:30am	GMCS 333	Monday, February 10, 2020	Tuesday, March 3, 2020
Saturday, February 29, 2020	8:30am 11:30am	GMCS 333	Monday, February 24, 2020	Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Friday, March 13, 2020	2:30pm	GMCS 333	Monday, March 9, 2020	Tuesday, March 24, 2020
**Saturday, March 14, 2020	8:30am 11:30am	GMCS 333	Monday, March 9, 2020	Tuesday, March 24, 2020

*** Sessions will be closed when testing capacity is reached regardless of registration deadline or posted times.**

^ Score release information: Test dates are determined by campus room availability, so some test results may not be available prior to the next scheduled test date. Please plan your test date accordingly.

****This is the last test date of the spring 2020 semester to take the WPA and receive your scores prior to class registration for the fall 2020 semester. This date fills to capacity so please plan to take an earlier date.**

There are two options for transferring your test date and or time. The deadline for either option is **12:00 p.m. (noon) the business day before the exam.**

1. Bring a printed copy of your Admission Ticket ([Testing Services Student Login](#)) to the office (Student Services West, room 2549) during regular business hours.
2. Attach the Admission Ticket to an email requesting a transfer to the new date and/or time and send it STAAR@sdsu.edu. Please include your name and Red ID in the body of the email.

Students Requesting Accommodations

Students with accommodations already authorized by the SDSU Student Ability Success Center (SASC), **and placed on the SDSU Testing Services reservation system by SASC**, will be offered an accommodated test session automatically during online test registration. SASC information can be found at http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/sds/.

Directions & Parking Information

SDSU Testing Services directions and parking information can be found [here](#).

Information contained herein is subject to change without notice.