



Date: April 23, 2025

To: Andre Avramchuk, Chair Academic Senate

From: Shikha Upadhyaya, Educational Policy Committee Chair

Copies: M. Hawley; M. Garcia; K. Brown; C. Harris; K. Fisher; R. Roquemoire; C. Pugh

Subject: **EPC Memo 24-10: Proposed Policy Deletion: Graduate Writing Requirement – Chapter IV of the Faculty Handbook (Ch.4.420)**

On April 16, 2025, the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) reviewed the existing Graduate Writing Requirement policy. According to a memo from the CSU Chancellor's Office dated March 24, 2022, the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) is no longer required for graduate students systemwide, effective for catalog years beginning Fall 2023.

In alignment with this systemwide directive and the CSU's shift toward campus-based writing assessment integrated with WSCUC core competencies, the EPC approved deleting the Graduate Writing Requirement policy.



GRADUATE WRITING REQUIREMENT

(Senate: 4/3/84, 8/5/86, 8/23/88, 9/23/92[EA], 5/4/99, 6/2/15, 4/4/17; President: 4/19/84, 5/9/87, 10/7/88, 11/18/92, 8/17/99, 10/13/15, 4/19/17; Editorial Amendment: 9/00, 8/01)

All CSU students are required by Trustee policy to demonstrate competence in writing as a requirement for all advanced degrees. All post-baccalaureate students at Cal State L.A. who are subject to requirements of the 1984-85 or any later Catalog and who are pursuing a graduate degree are required to satisfy the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Graduate students are considered to have met the GVAR requirement upon admission to the university if they (1) earned a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university where English is the medium of instruction; or (2) attained a score of 41 or better on the writing portion of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) or a score of 4 on the analytic writing portion of the GRE or the GMAT.

Graduate students must satisfy this requirement before completing 12 semester units.

Graduate students may take the writing proficiency exam once. Students who do not pass are required to pass the designated GVAR course. Students who do not satisfy the GVAR requirement within their first 12 units may be subject to a registration hold. Students must satisfy this Graduate Writing Requirement in order to be Advanced to Candidacy.

Departments/divisions/schools may require of their majors additional discipline-based coursework in writing.

A student who has satisfied the Graduate Writing Requirement shall continue to be certified



- 23 with no time limit on such certification. A Post-baccalaureate unclassified student is not
- 24 required to satisfy this Graduate Writing Requirement.

