

GRADUATION WRITING REQUIREMENT INFORMATION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Because the university wants to be certain that all students can write at an acceptable level, the GWR has been implemented. This is a degree requirement for all students at Cal Poly. Graduate students must meet the requirement before being advanced to candidacy. All graduate students must attempt to meet the GWR in the first quarter of residence. Below is the university's writing requirement, along with the criteria for waiving it.

Graduation Writing Requirement

All students must demonstrate competency in writing skills as a requirement for graduation. **Graduate students must satisfy the Graduation Writing Requirement in the first quarter of residence** through one of four options:

1. Passing the Writing Proficiency Examination (a 90-minute essay exam offered fall, winter and spring quarters only).
2. Passing an approved 300-level composition course with a grade of C or better AND receiving certification of proficiency in writing from the instructor based on an in-class essay.
3. Passing an approved 300-level literature course with a grade of C or better AND receiving certification of proficiency in writing from the instructor based on an in-class essay.
4. Certifying that the graduate requirement was met as part of an undergraduate program of study at Cal Poly within seven years of matriculation as a graduate student.

Each student should review his or her curricular requirements to determine which option is appropriate. No courses from MA or MS programs meet the requirement. If option 4 is used, students must begin graduate coursework within seven years from the date the GWR was satisfied or the student will be required to fulfill the requirement using one of the other options.

Criteria for Waiving the Graduation Writing Requirement for Graduate Students

The Graduation Writing Requirement may be waived, at the discretion of campus authorities, in the following circumstances:

1. The requirement was satisfied by the student as an undergraduate on one of the CSU campuses and no more than seven (7) years elapsed before entering the graduate program at Cal Poly. **Documentation to support this waiver option must include date of satisfaction.**
2. An equivalent upper-division, graduation writing requirement was satisfied at another 4-year college or university. **Official, dated documentation must be provided (i.e. transcripts, catalog description, etc.).** Again, no more than seven (7) years may elapse between meeting the requirement and beginning graduate study.
3. The student has earned an *advanced* degree at least equivalent to the Masters. **Supporting documentation must be presented.**

Graduate students who wish to waive the GWR should present documentation to the Writing Skills office (Bldg. 10, Rm. 130, 756-2067) in their first quarter of residence.