

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AA-005-190

Graduation Writing Test (GWT) Exemptions for Some Post Baccalaureate Students

Academic Affairs Committee

Date: February 2020

Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded

Date: April 8, 2020

Academic Senate

Date: April 15, 2020
First Reading

Background

Name: Dr. Salomón Oldak

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Title: Graduation Writing Test (GWT) exemptions for some postbaccalaureate students.

Names and Titles of Proponents: Dr. Salomón Oldak, Faculty Director of Graduate Studies;
Dr. Laura Massa, Associate Vice President for Academic Programs.

Keywords: Masters, postbaccalaureate, Graduation Writing test.

Background:

Title V 40402.1 and CSU EO 665 mandate that graduate-level students shall demonstrate writing proficiency before graduation. To demonstrate writing proficiency, it has been common practice to require from all postbaccalaureate students to take and pass the Graduation Writing Test (GWT) or Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) as is known elsewhere in the CSU system; if they haven't taken it as part of an undergraduate requirement.

However, CSU EO 665 (C.4) allows writing proficiency certification in ways other than a test. Since many postbaccalaureate students have demonstrated writing proficiency through their undergraduate degrees before admission to the university, the GWT requirement seems to be redundant for these students.

At least one other CSU (<http://www.csulb.edu/academic-advising/graduation-writing-assessment-requirement-gwar/gwar-guidelines-students>) exempts the GWT requirement for graduate students who have obtained undergraduate degrees from institutions that are based in countries where the primary language for instruction is English, or if students can otherwise demonstrate writing proficiency through the GWT or GMAT tests.

Recommended Resources:

Executive Graduate Council

Extended Graduate Council

Salomón Oldak, Faculty Director of Graduate Studies

Laura Massa, Associate Vice President for Academic Programs

Terri Gomez, Associate Vice President for Student Success

Documents:

Title V 40402.1

CSU EO 665

List of countries where English is the primary language of instruction.

Graduation Writing Test (GWT) exemptions for some postbaccalaureate students

It is proposed to exempt from the GWT postbaccalaureate students who have previously:

Received a degree from an accredited college or university in the United States, or received a degree from an accredited non-US institution located in a country where English is a primary language of communication; or received a score of 4 or higher on the analytical writing portion of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT).

Attachment 1:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/2070179/36745860/562786362/gwt_waiver_senate_referral.docx

Attachment 2:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/2070179/36745907/562786362/determination_of_competence_in_english_and_mathematics-_executive_order_-eo-_665_revised.pdf

Attachment 3:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/2070179/36745906/562786362/title_v_40402.1_.pdf

Attachment 4:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/2070179/36745905/562786362/list_of_countries_where_english_is_the_main_language_of_instruction.docx

Recommendations:

The Committee recommends the adoptions of the following Policy:

It is proposed to exempt from the GWT post-baccalaureate students who have previously:

Received a degree from an accredited college or university in the United States, or received a degree from an accredited non-US institution located in a country where English is a primary language of communication; or received a score of 4 or higher on the analytical writing portion of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT).

Students who are not exempt from the requirement, may complete the requirement in one of the following ways:

- 1) Complete the course ENG 3151: Writing for the Professions with a B- or better; OR....
- 2) Complete and pass the Graduate Writing Test (GWT)