

# UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The following sections include important graduation requirements for undergraduate studies.

## Test Requirements

Freshman and transfer applicants who have fewer than 60-semester or 90-quarter units of transferable college credit are strongly encouraged to submit scores, unless exempt (see "Eligibility Index"), from either the ACT or the SAT of the College Board. Persons who apply to an impacted program may be required to submit test scores and should take the test no later than November or December. Test scores also are used for advising and placement purposes. Registration forms and dates for the SAT or ACT are available from school or college counselors or a CSU campus testing office.

The College Board (SAT)  
Registration Unit, Box 6200  
New Jersey 08541-6200  
(609) 771-7588  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

ACT Registration Unit  
P.O. Box 414 Princeton,  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240  
(319) 337-1270  
[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

## English Language Requirement

All undergraduate applicants whose native language is not English, and who have not attended schools at the secondary level or above for at least three years full time where English is the principal language of instruction, must present a score of 61 or above on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

Some majors and some campuses may require a score higher than 61. A few campuses may also use alternative methods of assessing English fluency: Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), and the International Test of English Proficiency (ITEP). Each campus will post the tests it accepts on its website and will notify students after they apply about the tests it accepts and when to submit scores.

CSU MINIMUM TOEFL STANDARDS ARE:

Undergraduate:  
61 - INTERNET, 500 - PAPER

Graduate  
80 - INTERNET, 550 - PAPER

## Assessment of Academic Preparation and Placement

### Summary

As of fall 2018, students are no longer required to take the Entry Level Mathematics Exam (ELM) or the English Placement Test (EPT).

Based on the multiple measures described below, students will fall into one of four categories for English and math:

- Enrollment Category 1: Exempt from A2 and/or B4
- Enrollment Category 2: Placed into A2 and/or B4
- Enrollment Category 3: Placed into A2 and/or B4 with support with recommended Early Start
- Enrollment Category 4: Placed into A2 and/or B4 with support with required Early Start

Details of the scores, enrollment categories, and pathways follow. Summary flow charts and other details can be found at the [Developmental Studies website](#).

## Details

The CSU requires that all entering freshmen students be evaluated in terms of their preparation to complete first-year courses in written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning. This evaluation will utilize the broadest set of multiple measures including high school grades as well as performance scores on standardized exams such as the ACT or SAT. This evaluation of academic readiness is not a condition for admission to the CSU, but it is an important step for determining the best course placement for entering students.

Successful completion of General Education (GE) written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses in the first year of CSU enrollment establishes a foundation for continuous learning. Unless the requirements have been completed, freshmen shall enroll in GE written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses appropriate to each student's major and skill level, as demonstrated by applicable systemwide standards utilized in the review of academic preparation.

Students whose skill assessments indicate academic support will be needed for successful completion of GE in written communication or mathematics/quantitative courses shall enroll in appropriate college-level, baccalaureate credit-bearing courses that strengthen skills development to facilitate achieving the appropriate general education student learning outcomes. Supportive course models may include, among others, co-requisite approaches, supplemental instruction, or "stretch" formats that extend a course beyond one academic term. In these approaches, instructional content considered pre-baccalaureate may carry a maximum of 1 unit and shall be offered concurrently with a college-level, baccalaureate credit-bearing course.

## Multiple Measures Assessment for General Education Written Communication

Based on the systemwide assessment standards for GE written communication below, freshmen shall enroll in appropriate GE written communication courses during their first academic year unless the requirement has been fulfilled.

Students who have met the following requirements have **fulfilled the GE Written Communication requirement in preparation for advanced courses**:

- A score of 3 or above on either the Language and Composition examination or the Composition and Literature examination of the College Board Scholastic Advanced Placement Program
- Completion and transfer to the CSU of the credits for a college course that satisfies the CSU GE requirement in written composition provided such a course was completed with a grade of C- or better

Students who have met the following requirements are **ready to enroll in a course that meets the GE Written Communication requirement:**

- A result of 'Standard Exceeded: Ready for CSU or participating CCC college-level coursework in English' earned on the CAASPP Early Assessment Program (EAP) exam
- A score of 550 or higher on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section of the new SAT Reasoning Test sponsored by the College Board
- A score of 500 or higher on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section of the old SAT Reasoning Test sponsored by the College Board
- A score of 22 or above on the ACT English test
- Completion of an approved 12th grade, year-long, English course with a grade of C- or better AND a score of 510-540 on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section of the new SAT Reasoning Test or a score of 460-490 on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section of the old SAT Reasoning Test
- Completion of an approved 12th grade, year-long, English course with a grade of C- or better AND a score of 19-21 on the ACT English test
- A result of 'Standard Met: Conditionally Ready for CSU or participating CCC college-level coursework in English' on the CAASPP Early Assessment Program (EAP) exam AND completion of an approved 12th grade, year-long, English course with a grade of C- or better
- Achievement of a weighted high school GPA  $\geq 3.3$  OR a high school GPA  $\geq 3.0$  and completion of an approved 12th grade, year-long, English course (AP, IB, ERWC) or Honors English or more than five years of high school English

Students who have met the following requirements are **ready to enroll in a course that meets the GE Written Communication requirement and includes supported instruction:**

- Completion of four or more years of standard college preparatory high school English courses AND a score of 510-540 on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section of the new SAT Reasoning Test or a score of 460-490 on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section of the old SAT Reasoning Test or a score of 19-21 on the ACT English test
- Achievement of a weighted high school GPA  $\geq 3.0$  and four years of standard college preparatory high school English courses

Students who have met the following requirements are **required to participate in the Early Start Program and are ready to enroll in a course that meets the GE Written Communication requirement and includes supported instruction:**

- A score less than 510 on the Evidence-Based Reading Writing section of the new SAT Reasoning Test or a score less than 460 on the old SAT Reasoning Test AND achievement of a high school grade point average of  $\leq 3.0$
- A score less than 19 on the ACT English test and the achievement of a high school GPA of  $\leq 3.0$

## Multiple Measures Assessment for General Education Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning

Based on the systemwide assessment standards for GE mathematics/quantitative reasoning below, freshmen shall enroll in appropriate General

Education mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses during their first academic year unless the requirement has been fulfilled.

Students who have met the following requirements have **fulfilled the GE Math/Quantitative Reasoning requirement and are permitted to enroll in the next level of math:**

- A score of 3 or above on the College Board Advanced Placement Calculus AB or Calculus BC tests
- A score of 3 or above on the College Board Advanced Placement Statistics test
- A score of 4 or above on the International Baccalaureate Mathematics Higher Level (HL)
- A score of 50 or above on the College Board College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Calculus, College Algebra, College Algebra-Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, or Trigonometry
- Completion and transfer to the CSU of the credits for a college course that satisfies the CSU General Education requirement in mathematics/quantitative reasoning, provided such a course was completed with a grade of C- or better

Students who are **STEM majors who have met the following requirements are ready to enroll in a course that meets the GE Math/Quantitative Reasoning requirement:**

- A result of 'Standard Exceeded: Ready for CSU or participating CCC college-level coursework in mathematics' on the CAASPP Early Assessment Program (EAP) exam
- A score of 570 or above on the mathematics section of the new SAT Reasoning Test
- A score of 550 or above on the mathematics section of the old SAT Reasoning Test
- A score of 550 or above on the SAT Subject Test in Mathematics (level 1 or level 2)
- A score of 23 or above on the ACT Mathematics test
- Completion of a 12th grade mathematics course beyond algebra 2 with a grade of C- or better and a score of 520-560 on the new SAT mathematics test or a score of 490-540 on the old SAT mathematics test
- Completion of a 12th grade mathematics course beyond algebra 2 with a grade of C- or better and a score of 20-22 on the ACT Mathematics test
- A result of 'Standard Met: Conditionally Ready for CSU or participating CCC college-level coursework in mathematics' on the CAASPP Early Assessment Program (EAP) exam AND completion of a 12th grade mathematics course with a grade of C- or better
- Achievement of a weighted high school GPA  $\geq 3.7$
- Achievement of a weighted high school mathematics GPA  $\geq 3.5$  and 5+ years of mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses
- Achievement of a weighted high school mathematics GPA  $\geq 3.5$  and completion of an approved senior year course

Students who are **non-STEM majors who have met the following requirements are ready to enroll in a course that meets the GE Math/Quantitative Reasoning requirement:**

- A result of 'Standard Exceeded: Ready for CSU or participating CCC college-level coursework in mathematics' on the CAASPP Early Assessment Program (EAP) exam

- A score of 570 or above on the mathematics section of the new SAT Reasoning Test
- A score of 550 or above on the mathematics section of the old SAT Reasoning Test
- A score of 550 or above on the SAT Subject Test in Mathematics (level 1 or level 2)
- A score of 23 or above on the ACT Mathematics test
- Completion of a 12th grade mathematics course beyond algebra 2 with a grade of C- or better and a score of 520-560 on the new SAT mathematics test or a score of 490-540 on the old SAT mathematics test
- Completion of a 12th grade mathematics course beyond algebra 2 with a grade of C- or better and a score of 20-22 on the ACT Mathematics test
- A result of 'Standard Met: Conditionally Ready for CSU or participating CCC college-level coursework in mathematics' on the CAASPP Early Assessment Program (EAP) exam AND completion of a 12th grade mathematics course with a grade of C- or better
- A result of 'Standard Met: Conditionally Ready for CSU or participating CCC college-level coursework in mathematics on the CAASPP Early Assessment Program (EAP exam) and four years of mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses
- Achievement of a weighted high school GPA  $\geq 3.7$
- Achievement of a weighted high school GPA  $\geq 3.5$  and four or more years of mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses
- Achievement of a weighted high school mathematics GPA  $\geq 3.0$  and completion of five or more years of mathematics or quantitative reasoning courses
- Achievement of a weighted high school mathematics GPA  $\geq 3.0$  and completion of an approved senior year course

Students who are **STEM majors who have met the following requirements are ready to enroll in a course that meets the GE Math/Quantitative Reasoning requirement and includes supported instruction:**

- Achievement of a high school mathematics GPA  $\geq 3.3$

Students who are **non-STEM majors who have met the following requirements are ready to enroll in a course that meets the GE Math/Quantitative Reasoning requirement and includes supported instruction:**

- Achievement of a high school mathematics GPA  $\geq 3.3$
- Achievement of a high school GPA  $\geq 3.0$

Students who have met the following requirements are **required to participate in the Early Start Program and are ready to enroll in a course that meets the GE Math/Quantitative Reasoning requirement and includes supported instruction:**

- A score less than 510 on the mathematics section of the new SAT Reasoning test or a score less than 490 on the mathematics section of the old SAT Reasoning test AND a high school GPA  $\leq 3.2$
- A score less than 20 on the ACT Mathematics test AND a high school GPA  $\leq 3.2$

## Early Start Program

The Early Start Program serves CSU admitted first-year students who have not demonstrated proficiency in written communication and/or mathematics/quantitative reasoning as determined by systemwide placement standards. Participation in the Early Start Program is required

for students needing skills development in these areas. Students will be expected to enroll in a written communication course or mathematics/quantitative reasoning course (but not both) during the summer period prior to the start of the fall term. Students required to participate in the Early Start Program may choose to enroll at any CSU campus; the earned baccalaureate credit will be transferred seamlessly to the student's destination campus.

The goals of the Early Start Program are to:

- Better prepare students in written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning before the start of the fall semester of the freshman year;
- Add an important and timely assessment tool in preparing students for college; and
- Improve the opportunity for students to successfully complete their college degrees

The CSU requires students in Enrollment Category 4 to complete an Early Start transition into college and start taking credit-bearing courses before their first term. Students in Enrollment Category 3 are encouraged to enroll in Early Start.

Newly admitted freshman students who are required to complete Early Start will be notified of the requirement and options for completing the program as part of campus communications to newly admitted students.

## Written English Proficiency Requirements

All students must demonstrate competency in writing as a requirement for graduation. The following information lists the ways available to meet this graduation requirement.

### Summary of Written English Proficiency Requirements

**Note:** Non-native speakers of English may follow a different course sequence to fulfill their Written English Proficiency Requirements, which are described below in the section titled "Written English Proficiency Requirements for Multilingual Students".

1. **First-Year Composition (GE Area A2, Written English Communication I):** Two equivalent pathways satisfy the First-Year Composition Requirement:
  - a. Stretch ENG 104/ENG 105 or
  - b. ENG 114.
2. **GWAR:** Undergraduate students must complete the CSU Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR).

## Written English Proficiency Requirements for Native Speakers of English

### First-Year Composition for Native Speakers (GE Area A2)

Two equivalent pathways satisfy the First-Year Composition Requirement for native speakers of English: Stretch ENG 104/ENG 105 or ENG 114. Either pathway satisfies GE Area A2, Written English Communication I. Students enrolling in stretch English take ENG 104 in the fall and ENG 105 in the spring. Students who enter in spring must take both ENG 104 and ENG 105 concurrently.

Grading in all composition courses will be either ABC/No Credit or Credit/No Credit (CR/NC). A grade of CR or C- or better in ENG 104/ENG 105 or in ENG 114 satisfies the First-Year Composition Requirement.

Students who receive a grade of NC for ENG 105 must enroll in ENG 114. Students who receive an NC in ENG 104 in the fall term must enroll

in both ENG 104 and ENG 105 during the spring term. Students who fail to complete ENG 104 within one year from the time of enrollment are subject to disenrollment from the University. They may return after completing an equivalent to First-Year Composition elsewhere within two consecutive semesters after not meeting this requirement. For more information contact the [Developmental Studies Office](#) in ADM 211. Only those students who can demonstrate one of the following are not required to take First-Year Composition at SF State:

1. A score of 3, 4, or 5 on either the English Language and Composition or English Literature and Composition examinations of the College Board Advanced Placement Program.
2. A score of 4 or higher on IB Language A – Language and Literature (HL) – English or IB Language A – Literature (HL) – English.
3. Completion of an equivalent college-level course elsewhere of 3 semester or 4 quarter units with a grade of credit (CR) or C– or better.

## U.S. History and Government Requirement

The California State University (CSU) system requires that all graduates demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of American institutions and ideals, the Constitution of the United States, the operation of representative democratic government under that Constitution, and the processes of California's state and local governments. Because this is a competency requirement, it may be satisfied by passing examinations, by taking courses, or by a combination of examinations and courses. In unusual circumstances, students may be able to demonstrate competency in other ways as well.

Transfer students from other California institutions may complete the U.S. History and Government Requirement prior to transfer. Public colleges and universities in California typically cover the entire requirement, often called American Institutions, in two courses in the same way as SF State. However, transfer students from colleges and universities outside of California or from private institutions within California or students who have AP or CLEP credit in U.S. government usually have not studied California government and will therefore need either to pass the California state and local government examination (see below) or to take a course to complete the California State and Local Government component of the U.S. History and Government requirement. Students should consult their Degree Progress Report (DPR) or their Advanced Standing Evaluation (ASE) to verify completion of the entire requirement.

Students who believe that they can demonstrate a proficient understanding of any part of this requirement based on other coursework they have taken should consult with the [Undergraduate Advising Center](#).

Students starting SF State as first-time college students in fall 2014 or later, will satisfy this requirement by completion of Areas D2 and D3 of General Education. Transfer students who need to complete the requirement at SF State should choose from the lists below.

## Satisfying the U.S. History and Government Requirement by Examination

### Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations

A score of 3 or higher on the Advanced Placement examination in U.S. history will satisfy the U.S. history requirement. Students who have achieved a score of 3 or higher on the Advanced Placement examination in U.S. Government and Politics will satisfy the U.S. government component of the requirement. For more information, go to the [College Board website](#). Satisfactory completion of AP examinations also carries college credit. See [Advanced Placement Test Scores page](#). **No AP**

**examination will satisfy the requirement in California state and local government.**

### College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Examinations

A passing score (50) on the CLEP exam in either U.S. History I or U.S. History II will satisfy the U.S. history requirement. A passing score (50) on the CLEP exam in American Government will satisfy the U.S. government component of this requirement. For more information, go to the [College Board website](#). Satisfactory completion of CLEP examinations will also carry college credit. See [College-level Examination Program Test Scores page](#). **No CLEP examination will satisfy the requirement in California state and local government.**

### SF State Equivalency Examination in California State and Local Government

This requirement may be met by achieving a passing score on an SF State equivalency examination. This examination may be taken only once. For information about this examination and preparation for it, contact the [Testing Center](#).

Students may submit any combination of examinations and courses to satisfy this requirement.

## Satisfying the U.S. History and Government Requirement by Taking Courses

Students who begin at SF State as first-time college students will complete the American Institutions requirements by completing Areas D2 and D3 of the General Education program. Transfer students who have completed 9 units in Area D but still need to complete the American Institutions requirement may choose courses in D2 and D3. Please note, there are a few courses that meet all three requirements, and these can be taken by transfer students who have already met all 9 units of Area D.

Transfer students missing the U.S. History requirement or the U.S. and California Government requirement may also select an upper-division course approved as an "Additional US History" or "Additional US and California Government" course (see list below). There are a few courses that can meet all three requirements (see below). Transfer students who need to fulfill ONLY the California Government component of the requirement may take a course from the CSLG list below.

## U.S. History Requirement Courses (USH) Area D2

Code	Title	Units
AA S 210	History of Asians in the United States (D2, AERM, USH)	3
AFRS 208	Introduction to African American History (D2, AERM, GP, SJ, USH)	3
AIS 103	Introduction to Pacific Studies (D2, AERM, GP, SJ, USH)	3
AIS 150	American Indian History in the United States (D2, AERM, SJ, USH)	3
H ED 241	Health and Social Movements in the United States in the 20th Century (D2, AERM, SJ, USH)	3
HIST 120	History of the U.S. through Reconstruction (D2, USH)	3
HIST 121	History of the U.S. since Reconstruction (D2, USH)	3
HIST 130	Survey of U.S. History for Foreign Students (D2, USH)	3
HIST 278	History of Latinos in the U.S. (D2, AERM, SJ, USH)	3
LTNS 278	History of Latinos in the U.S. (D2, AERM, SJ, USH)	3

RRS 103	Introduction to Pacific Studies (D2, AERM, GP, SJ, USH)	3	RRS 250	Race, Ethnicity and Power in America (D3, AERM, SJ, USG)	3
RRS 240	All Power to the People: Comparative Freedom Movements of the "Sixties" (D2, AERM, SJ, USH)	3	WGS 160	Gender, Politics, and Citizenship (D3, AERM, USG)	3
WGS 150	Women and Gender in U.S. History and Society (D2, AERM, SJ, USH)	3			

**Additional US History Courses**

Code	Title	Units
AFRS 375	Law and the Black Community (AERM, SJ, CSLG, USG, USH)	3
AFRS 376	Government, the Constitution, and Black Citizens (AERM, SJ, USG, USH)	3
AIS 460	Power and Politics in American Indian History (UD-D, AERM, SJ, USH)	3
AIS 550	American Indians in Contemporary U.S. History (AERM, SJ, USH)	3
H ED 305	Critical History of Public Health in the United States (SJ, USH)	3
HIST 418	Society and Politics in American History (AERM, SJ, USH)	3
HIST 420	American Colonial History (USH)	3
HIST 449	American Jewish History (UD-C, AERM, SJ, USH)	3
HIST 455	The Philippines and the United States (UD-C, AERM, GP, SJ, USH)	3
HIST 465	American Ethnic and Racial Relations II: 1890-Present (UD-C, AERM, GP, SJ, USH)	3
HIST 466	History of People of Color in the U.S. (UD-D, AERM, SJ, USH)	3
HIST 470	The U.S. Constitution to 1896 (UD-C, AERM, SJ, USG, USH)	3
HIST 471	The U.S. Constitution Since 1896 (UD-C, AERM, SJ, USG, USH)	3
HIST 475	History of Sexuality in the United States Before 1900 (SJ, USH)	3
HIST 478	American Popular Culture History: Barnum to Reality TV (UD-C, AERM, USH)	3
HIST 484	Disability and Culture in the U.S. (UD-C, SJ, USH)	3
HIST 485	History of Sexuality in the United States Since 1900 (SJ, USH)	3
JS 449	American Jewish History (UD-C, AERM, SJ, USH)	3
MUS 506	Survey of Jazz (UD-C, AERM, USH)	3
MUS 559	Women in Jazz (UD-C, AERM, USH)	3
RRS 600	History of People of Color in the U.S. (UD-D, AERM, SJ, USH)	3
TH A 559	Women in Jazz (UD-C, AERM, USH)	3

**U.S. and California Government (USG and CSLG) Area D3**

Code	Title	Units
AA S 213	Asian Americans and American Ideals and Institutions (D3, AERM, SJ, USG)	3
AIS 205	American Indians and U.S. Laws (D3, AERM, SJ, USG)	3
LTNS 276	Latina/o, U.S. Government, and Constitutional Ideals (D3, AERM, USG)	3
PLSI 200	American Politics (D3, USG)	3

**Additional U.S. and California Government Courses**

Code	Title	Units
AFRS 375	Law and the Black Community (AERM, SJ, CSLG, USG, USH)	3
AFRS 376	Government, the Constitution, and Black Citizens (AERM, SJ, CSLG, USG, USH)	3
HIST 470	The U.S. Constitution to 1896 (UD-C, AERM, SJ, CSLG, USG, USH)	3
HIST 471	The U.S. Constitution Since 1896 (UD-C, AERM, SJ, CSLG, USG, USH)	3

**California State and Local Government Requirement (CSLG)**

This course satisfies ONLY the California State and Local Government component of the U.S. History and Government requirement. Students whose ASE or degree progress report indicates that they have not met this component of the requirement should either take a US and California Government course from the list above, the examination in state and local government (see [Testing Center](#) for more information) or the following course to fulfill the California State and Local Government component of this requirement.

Code	Title	Units
HIST 450	History of California (UD-D, CSLG)	3
HIST 551	Engaging Democracy: Participating in Historical Debates (CSLG)	3
PLSI 373	Essentials of California Politics (CSLG)	1
PLSI 473	California Politics and Government (SJ, CSLG)	4

Undergraduate Education continues in [General Education Lower Division](#).

Visit our [General Education Table of Contents](#) or review the Overview of General Education from the beginning of [Undergraduate Education](#).