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Academic Senate Policy #F10-14

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON WRITTEN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

This policy revises Academic Senate Policy #S09-14 in pursuit of several goals. It simultaneously reduces costs and increases the efficacy of the SF State writing program by introducing well-established practices pioneered on other campuses and specifically designed for the needs of our students.

OVERVIEW

This document describes the formal University program in written English proficiency. It also highlights the special role and responsibility of instructors of undergraduate and graduate composition courses as well as the charge and the membership of the University Committee on Written English Proficiency.

The development of student writing skills is both central to the mission of the University and dependent on the full and active participation of faculty from all segments of the academic community. Although major responsibility for teaching English composition has historically resided within the English Department, the University's written English requirements apply to students, spanning a broad spectrum of academic majors and interests.

The University Committee on Written English Proficiency (CWEP) was established to encourage and support broad and effective faculty participation in the teaching and assessment of student writing. Towards these ends, the committee sponsors a wide array of services and activities in support of curricula and programs that foster the teaching, learning and assessment of written English; these services, activities and programs should be sensitive to the needs of a multi-cultural diverse student population. Furthermore, the committee endorses the principle that test development, procedures and instruments should reflect thoughtful and humanistic consideration of all people, be sensitive to the multi-cultural and ethnic diversity of our students, and to the extent possible be valid, reliable and free of bias.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON WRITTEN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

UNDERGRADUATE WRITTEN ENGLISH POLICY

A. Lower Division

All newly admitted undergraduate students who are subject to the 48-unit General Education Program requirements must complete the appropriate written English (or ?composition?) course requirements listed below.

I. Placement into First-Year Composition Courses

All newly admitted undergraduate students will be placed into First-Year Composition courses using directed self-placement. Directed self-placement is a placement method that provides students with information and advice about their placement options and places the ultimate decision in the students' hands. Students will receive directed self-placement information and advising prior to registration, and will select placement into the appropriate First-Year Composition course prior to, or at the time of, freshman orientation.

All self-identified multilingual students who self-place into the Composition for Multilingual Students (CMS) option will receive additional advising, in conjunction with the SFSU-CMST (Composition for Multilingual Students Test, formerly English as a Second Language Placement Test [ESLPT]), in order to determine their placement into the most appropriate CMS course.

As required by CSU policy, newly-admitted undergraduate students must take the California State University English Placement TEST (CSU-EPT) prior to their first semester of matriculated attendance at SFSU, except those with an approved EPT test or course exemptions listed in the University Bulletin. However, the results of the EPT will not be used to determine placement.

International students will not participate in directed self-placement. These students will be placed into appropriate First-Year Composition courses upon advisement.

II. First-Year Composition Requirement

Three equivalent pathways satisfy the first-year composition requirement: ENG 104/105, First-Year Composition (Stretch); ENG 114, First-Year Composition; and ENG 209, Composition for Multilingual Students (CMS).

Only those students who can demonstrate one of the following are exempt from the first-year composition requirement:

1. A score of 3, 4, or 5 on either the Language and Composition or Composition and Literature examinations of the College Board Advanced Placement Program;
2. 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.
3. Students who select ENG 104-105 to satisfy the first-year composition requirement must enroll in their first semester and complete these courses before their second year of

enrollment. Students who select ENG 114 are strongly advised to enroll in their first semester, and must complete the course before their second year of enrollment. Students with a qualifying score on the SFSU-CMST (formerly ESLPT) may take ENG 209 to satisfy the University's First-Year Composition requirement.

Students who earn a grade of CR or C- or better in the ENG 104-105 sequence satisfy the first-year composition requirement and are eligible to enroll in a second-year composition course. Students who receive a grade of NC in ENG 105 must enroll in and earn a grade of CR or C- or better in ENG 114 to satisfy the first-year composition requirement.

Students who earn a grade of CR or C- or better in ENG 114 satisfy the first-year composition requirement.

Students with a qualifying score on the SFSU-CMST (formerly ESLPT) may take ENG 209 instead of ENG 104-105 or ENG 114. Students who earn a grade of CR or C- or better in ENG 209 satisfy the first-year composition requirement. First-time freshmen who do not qualify for ENG 209 may take ENG 201 and ENG 208 their first semester, and ENG 202 and ENG 212 their second semester. Students who complete these four courses with a B+ or better, and with their instructor's recommendation, have met the first-year composition requirement and can accelerate directly into ENG 310, the second-year composition requirement for multilingual students.

Grading on all written composition courses will be either ABC/No Credit or Credit/No Credit.

III. CSU Entry-level Proficiency Requirement

First-time freshman who were not able to show English proficiency at entry shall attain such proficiency during their initial college year of study at San Francisco State University.

IV. Second-Year Composition Requirement

Second -year composition requirement is a General Education basic subjects foundation course in composition, logic, style, rhetoric and literature. Students should take a course that satisfies the second- year composition requirement after completing 24 semester units and prior to completing 60 semester units, unless they have one of the following exemptions:

1. A score of 3, 4, or 5 on either the Language and Composition or Composition and Literature examinations of the College Board Advanced Placement Program;

2. 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.

Successful completion of ENG 114 or its equivalent is a pre-requisite for enrollment in all second-year composition courses. Students who self-identify as may enroll in ENG 310 as a second-year composition requirement course substitute only if they receive a qualifying score on the SFSUCMST (formerly ESLPT) examination and the approval of the CMS Coordinator.

B. Upper Division

I. Fulfilling the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)

As prescribed in CSU policy, "All students subject to the degree requirements of the 1977-78 or subsequent general catalogs must demonstrate competence in writing skills at the upper division level as a requirement for the baccalaureate degree and, if not previously met in the CSU, for a second baccalaureate degree" (EO 665). SFSU undergraduates who are first-time college students or returning students in Fall 2008 or later will satisfy the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) by earning a C grade or higher in an upper-division GWAR designated course in their major department, college, or program.

II. Supplemental Instruction for GWAR Courses

All students have the option for supplemental instruction to optimize their success in GWAR courses.

Using directed self-placement, students will select one of three options:

1. Enroll directly into a GWAR course without supplemental instruction;
2. Enroll in Grammar for Writers (ENG 418) concurrent with a GWAR course;
3. Enroll in CMS courses (ENG 310 and/or 410) prior to, or in conjunction with, a GWAR course.

Students will receive directed self-placement information and advising regarding their options for supplemental instruction prior to registration in a GWAR course.

III. GWAR-Designated Course Enrollment Requirements

Students must have satisfied the lower-division writing requirements (see above) and earned at least 48 semester-unit credits prior to enrollment in a GVAR-designated course.

Students should pass a GVAR designated course, with a C grade or higher, before they have completed 90 units.

Departments, colleges and programs may restrict enrollment in GVAR-designated courses to their declared majors with upper-division status, unless those courses are certified in the general education program.

IV. Implementation

CWEP is charged with the responsibility for approving GVAR-designated courses. Other responsibilities and functions of CWEP are described elsewhere in this policy.

It is expected that most departments, colleges, and programs will have GVAR-designated courses approved by CWEP and scheduled for matriculated students by Fall 2010. Departments or programs for majors that do not meet that deadline must submit a GVAR proposal to CWEP no later than Fall 2010.

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GVAR) Course Criteria

The Academic Senate approves the following Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GVAR) course criteria for the purpose of facilitating the transition to a new way to fulfill the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. The Committee on Written English Proficiency (CWEP) will submit an assessment report on the implementation of the GVAR courses, the GVAR policy, and the GVAR-course criteria to the Academic Senate no later than October 1st, 2014.

GVAR-course Criteria:

Criterion #1, Class Size: Courses satisfying the GVAR should have an enrollment maximum of 20-25 students. In rare cases, if departmental conditions warrant, and a rationale is provided to justify the exception, CWEP may approve a course that exceeds the maximum.

Criterion #2, Number of Pages/Words: The overall assignments for the course will include a minimum of 15 pages, meaning the equivalent of 4000 words, of formal writing that demonstrates upper-division written English proficiency within the given discipline.

Criterion #3, How Writing Will Affect the Final Grade: At least 60% of the grade in GVAR courses must be based on written assignments and take-home essay exams (e.g., exams designed to allow for revision), which are evaluated for both content and quality of writing.

Criterion #4, Revision of Assignments: GVAR courses must include substantive revision of major, graded, written assignments in response to feedback.

Criterion #5, Types of Assignments: GVAR courses should include a variety of writing assignments that are sequenced and or distributed throughout the semester, rather than concentrated at the end.

Criterion #6, In-class Attention to Writing: GVAR course syllabi should reflect significant class time devoted to instruction in writing conventions within the given discipline.

Criterion # 7, Number of Units: GVAR courses, or course sequences, should be at least 3 units.

V. Exceptions

SFSU undergraduates who were first-time college students or returning students prior to Fall 2008 and maintained continuous enrollment can satisfy the GVAR either by earning a C grade or higher in a GVAR-designated course in their major or by passing the Junior English Proficiency Test (JEPET). Students in this category who take but fail the JEPET can satisfy the GVAR by earning a C grade or higher in ENG 414, 410, or 411.

SFSU undergraduates who were first-time college students or returning students prior to Fall 2008 but did not maintain continuous enrollment can satisfy the GVAR by passing the Junior English Proficiency Test (JEPET) before January 2011. Students in this category who take but fail the JEPET can satisfy the GVAR by earning a C grade or higher in ENG 414, 410, or 411 before January 2011.

Undergraduates who were first-time college students prior to Fall 2008 but did not maintain continuous enrollment and did not pass the Junior English Proficiency Test (JEPET) or earn a C grade or higher in ENG 414, 410, or 411 before January 2011 must satisfy the GVAR by earning a C grade or higher in a GVAR designated course in their major.

All students whose declared major is in a department, college, or program that does not have a CWEP approved GVAR designated course when they achieve upper-division status will be able to satisfy the GVAR by passing the Junior English Proficiency Test (JEPET). Students in this category who take but fail the JEPET can satisfy the GVAR by earning a C grade or higher in ENG 414, 410, or 411. However, students in this category who have not satisfied the GVAR through JEPET (or ENG 414, 410, or 411) by the time that a GVAR designated course is approved for their major and scheduled, must satisfy the GVAR by earning a C grade or higher in that GVAR designated course.

?Continuously enrolled? is defined as matriculated attendance in at least one semester or two quarters each calendar year.

Students who have fulfilled the GVAR requirement established by their major's department, college, or program will not have to take a second GVAR-designated course if they change majors unless that course is needed to fulfill the requirements of the new major.

Students with double majors who have fulfilled the GVAR requirement established by their primary major will not have to take a second GVAR-designated course unless that course is needed to fulfill the requirements of the second major.

Pursuant to E.O. 665 Section II.C.5, students who fulfilled the GVAR requirement at another CSU campus will not have to take a GVAR-designated course at SFSU unless that course is needed to fulfill the requirements of their major.

VI. Assessment

In accordance with E.O. 665, the GVAR program shall be subject to periodic review and evaluation, at least every five years, by CWEP and the Writing Across the Curriculum/Writing in the Disciplines (WAC/WID) specialist, in consultation with the Academic Senate and the Associated Vice President for Academic Planning and Educational Effectiveness (AVP for AP&EE). Such review and evaluation reports shall be presented to the Academic Senate by the WAC/WID Specialist. The first progress report is due no later than October 1st, 2011.

GRADUATE WRITTEN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY POLICY

All students in graduate programs at SFSU must demonstrate Level One (entry) and Level Two (exit) writing proficiency in accordance with university, departmental and or programmatic guidelines.

I. Level One Written English Proficiency

Prior to admission, departments and programs must assess graduate students' written English proficiency as being appropriate for pursuing graduate studies in their disciplines. Each graduate program shall file a plan with the Division of Graduate Studies that describes how Level One writing proficiency will be assessed and specifies criteria for evaluation. Departments and programs may choose one or more assessment methods from the following range of possibilities:

- writing samples;

- personal statements;

- a passing score on a department or program administered exam;

- a score of at least 4.0/6.0 on the GRE or GMAT Analytic Writing Assessment;

- a score of at least 4.5/6.0 on the essay test of the paper-based [PBT] TOEFL (a minimum score of 24/30 on the Writing section of the Internet-based test [iBT] TOEFL);

- a score of at least 6.5/9.0 on the IELTS writing test, or a concordant score on the Pearson Test of English.

Departments and programs should develop rubrics for assessing writing samples, personal statements, and department- or program-administered exams.

If students have not met Level-One proficiency prior to admission, they may be admitted conditionally, and must be informed that their admission will involve specific remediation and may cause them to incur additional expenses and time to degree. Departments and programs admitting students below stated standards must submit a general support plan for such students to the Committee on Written English Proficiency (CWEP). Upon CWEP approval, the plan must be filed with the Division of Graduate Studies specifying appropriate educational resources to help students meet the Level One requirement. Such resources might include:

- discipline-specific writing courses;
- department or program administered tests;
- learning assistance services; and
- writing and editing courses designed for non-native speakers of English.

If a program recommends conditional admission for a student that it deems not able to meet the stated written English proficiency standards expected of its graduate students, then the program must advise the student about appropriate educational resources for acquiring the expected writing skills. It is the program's responsibility to provide appropriate educational resources and to remove conditions for admission.

Students admitted conditionally or not meeting stated written English proficiency standards must meet Level One written English proficiency by the end of their second semester. Students must meet Level One written English proficiency prior to advancing to Level Two.

II. Level Two Written English Proficiency

Upon review of the plan by the Associate Vice President of Academic Planning and Educational Effectiveness, each graduate program shall file a plan with the Division of Graduate Studies that describes how Level Two writing proficiency will be assessed, specifies criteria for evaluation, and describes the process for students who do not pass the Level Two assessment on their first attempt. The Culminating Experience may be the most appropriate vehicle for satisfying Level Two proficiency, or graduate programs may develop other discipline-specific methods.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON WRITTEN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (CWEP)

Many committees and programs at SFSU participate in activities designed to support the written proficiency of our students. CWEP, however, deliberates on the way in which the campus as a whole pursues the writing proficiency of its students and serves as a "clearing house" for all-University literacy efforts. CWEP is also responsible for promoting the participation of all SFSU faculty in achieving this goal.

Since CWEP proposes, reviews and provides recommendations regarding policy and procedures on writing proficiency, it is important that it maintains communication and consults as appropriate with standing academic and administrative committees, departments, programs, colleges, and the Academic Affairs officers and the academic deans. Similarly, when any subset of the aforementioned bodies is considering modifications to practice or policy affecting the written proficiency of students, it will be expected to consult with CWEP in a timely fashion prior to approval.

The Dean of Undergraduate Studies and/or the Dean of the Graduate Studies (or their designees to CWEP), as appropriate, will be responsible for ensuring that this consultation takes place, most especially when it affects implementation of campus-wide writing-proficiency policies. Proposed changes to such policies should be developed with broad consultation as described above before submission to the Academic Senate.

The specific functions of CWEP include the following:

1. Recommend appropriate actions to implement University policy on undergraduate written English proficiency. Recommendations regarding the undergraduate written English proficiency requirements will be made to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and to official policy-making bodies in accordance with established university policies and procedures and practices;
2. Recommend appropriate actions to implement University policy on graduate written English proficiency. Recommendations regarding the graduate written English proficiency requirements will be made to the Dean of the Graduate Studies and to official policy-making bodies in accordance with established University policies,

procedures and practices

3. Serve as consultant on undergraduate and graduate written English proficiency to appropriate standing academic policy committees (e.g., APC, CRAC, EPC, GEC or successor bodies) and to the Vice President for Academic Affairs or his/her designee;
4. Serve as consultant in the implementation of undergraduate and graduate written English proficiency to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, the Dean of the Graduate Studies and the Vice President for Academic Affairs or his/her designee;
5. Serve as a subject-matter resource and liaison to faculty members and/or department/program chairs who seek assistance in developing writing components in their programs. The committee, on its own or jointly, may sponsor and consult on the following kinds of activities to strengthen, enhance, and improve student writing proficiency across the curriculum in both undergraduate and graduate programs:
 - i. Workshops focusing on such topics as grading, holistic evaluation, pedagogical strategies, and other competency areas to enhance the overall quality of instruction in courses having a substantial written English component;
6. Workshops focusing on such topics as grading, holistic evaluation, pedagogical strategies, and other competency areas to enhance the overall quality of instruction in courses having a substantial written English component;

i. workshops on cultural and linguistic diversity; and

ii. development and distribution of guidelines and materials to assist faculty members in enhancing both the content and pedagogy of written communication in English.

7. Evaluate proposals and make suggestions for improvement of disciplinary writing components, including assessment procedures, upon written request from program faculty. Copies of CWEP's written recommendations will be submitted to the appropriate department chair, college dean and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and/or the Dean of the Graduate Studies;

8. Submit an annual report to the Academic Senate summarizing committee activities.

Recommendations for changes in policy shall be submitted to the appropriate standing academic policy committees (e.g., EPC, APC, CRAC, GEC or successor bodies) and to the

Vice President for Academic Affairs or her/his designee. Recommendations for routine procedural modifications shall be submitted to the Vice President for Academic Affairs or her/his designee.

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

CWEP will consist of the following members:

Voting Members:

i, The Writing Across the Curriculum/Writing in the Disciplines Coordinator;

i, the Composition Coordinator (or designee);

i, the Coordinator of Composition for Multilingual Students (or designee);

i, one faculty member from the English Department, elected according to its established procedures;

i, eight faculty members, one representing each College, elected by their respective Colleges through established procedures;

i, one undergraduate and one graduate student selected by the Associated Students;

i, one tenured English or ESL Department faculty member invited by the committee from one of the major feeder community colleges, for a one-year renewable term, who will serve as the community college liaison to the committee; and

i, the Coordinator of the Learning Assistance Center (or designee).

Non-Voting Members:

i., The Dean of Undergraduate Studies or designee;

i., the Dean of Graduate Studies or designee;

i., one member of the Academic Senate Educational Policies Council (EPC);

i., one representative from the Library who has expertise in information competence, selected according to the Library's established procedures;

i., a student services professional who is in direct contact with students and has experience with student issues related to writing, elected by the Student Services Professional electorate;

i., one member of the Academic Affairs staff to be appointed by the Vice President for Academic Affairs and to serve as staff to the committee;

i., the GET Coordinator (or designee);

i., the JEPET Coordinator (or designee); and

i., the Reading Coordinator (or designee).

Each of the nine elected faculty members will serve for a three-year term, with the initial members drawing straws for 3 one-year terms, 3 two-year terms, and 3 three-year terms. In the event that a member of the committee is replaced before the expiration of her/his term, the replacement shall serve out the remainder of the term, so that the nine elected committee members shall continue to have staggered terms. The Associated Students members may stand for re-election or re-appointment for one successive term only. The committee shall elect one of its members as Chair for a one-year term at the first meeting following spring elections and the seating of new members.

*****Approved by the Academic Senate at its meeting on November 2, 2010*****

*****Endorsed by President Robert A. Corrigan on February 17, 2011*****
