

March 12, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: CSU Provosts

FROM: Loren J. Blanchard, Ph.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor



SUBJECT: Temporary suspension of the California State University Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)

The current suspension of in-person classes due to COVID-19 across our system, as well as [Executive Order N-25-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom](#) requiring adherence to social distancing guidelines, leads us to issue a temporary, limited suspension of the California State University Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR). Campuses that utilize in-person testing to meet the mandate of [Executive Order 665 Revised](#), shall immediately suspend the GWAR requirement. CSU campuses that have moved to utilizing completion of a specified course or courses to meet this requirement may continue to do so.

The temporary suspension is sought to facilitate student progress toward degree completion while faculty redesign curricula to ensure students have the instruction and practice needed in order to achieve university writing outcomes without the use of in-person testing. We ask that campuses work with their campus-based Academic Senate, through the shared governance process, to determine an alternative metric to satisfy the in-person testing requirement via a course or series of courses, beginning with the 2021-22 academic year.

If you have questions regarding these guidelines, please contact Dr. Alison Wrynn, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Programs, Innovations and Faculty Development at awrynn@calstate.edu or 562/951-4672

LJB/amw

Suspension of GVAR

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- c: Dr. Timothy P. White, Chancellor
- Dr. Karen Nakai, Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor
- CSU Presidents
- Mr. Nathan Evans, Chief of Staff, Academic and Student Affairs
- Dr. Catherine Nelson, Chair, Academic Senate CSU
- Dr. Alison Wrynn, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Programs, Innovations and Faculty Development
- Dr. Luoluo Hong, Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management