



California State University | Stanislaus

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS INCORPORATED OF
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STANISLAUS

Resolution Recommending Elimination of the Writing Proficiency Screening Test (WPST) as a Prerequisite to Taking a Writing Proficiency Course

- 1. WHEREAS:** The Associated Students, Inc., is the representative body and the official voice of the students at California State University, Stanislaus; and
- 2. WHEREAS:** Stanislaus State is one of only four campuses in the entire California State University system that requires passing the Writing Proficiency Screening Test (WPST) as a prerequisite to enrolling in a Writing Proficiency Course; and
- 3. WHEREAS:** With the majority of CSU campuses not requiring an exam similar to the WPST prior to taking a Writing Proficiency (WP) course, it is time to re-consider and re-evaluate the merits of the WPST prerequisite to determine if it remains a necessary and a viable tool, or whether it represents an unnecessary hurdle for students as they work towards graduation; and
- 4. WHEREAS:** Passing a Writing Proficiency course is a graduation requirement, thereby impacting all students; and
- 5. WHEREAS:** The following points support eliminating the requirement of passing the WPST as a prerequisite to taking the Writing Proficiency course:
 - Students pay a \$25.00 fee to take the WPST and the cost of this test can become burdensome to students who are on limited budgets.
 - Prior to acceptance to our university, all students are already required to pass a writing proficiency exam, making the requirement to take yet another writing proficiency exam simply to be allowed to take a required writing course both unnecessary and redundant.
 - For those students having difficulties with their Writing Proficiency Course, our campus has several resources to assist, including tutoring through the Learning Commons office.

- Current pandemic protocols have paused on-campus testing services such as the WPST prerequisite temporarily, in order to ensure students are able to proceed to graduation in a timely manner and are only required to take a WP course without completion of the WPST.
- Even prior to our current “virtual” setting (necessitated by the COVID pandemic) students were allowed to take the Writing Proficiency course *in conjunction with* the WPST, which seriously calls into question the necessity of the WPST as a prerequisite to taking the course; and
- The WPST requirement is not consistently upheld on campus, with many professors allowing students to enroll in their Writing Proficiency Course without first taking/passing the WPST.

6. WHEREAS: The above points clearly illustrate that the WPST prerequisite has proven itself to be an obsolete and unnecessary requirement, thereby an additional burden to students that should be eliminated.

7. IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that taking and passing the Writing Proficiency Screening Test be officially eliminated as a prerequisite to enrolling in a Writing Proficiency Course by the start of Fall 2021.

8. RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be distributed to Ellen Junn, President; Kimberly Greer, Provost; Stuart Wooley, Interim Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs; Keith Nainby, Academic Senate Speaker; Cathlin Davis, UEPC Chair; Ann Strahm, UEPC Chair-Elect, UEPC Committee members; Christine Erickson, Vice President of Student Affairs; Tomas Gomez-Arias, Dean for College of Business Administration; James Tuedio, Dean for College of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Oddmund Myhre, Dean for College of Education, Kinesiology and Social Work; David Evans, Dean of the College of Science; and Rachel Grimshaw, Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement Coordinator.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Associated Students, Inc., at a regularly held meeting on February 16th 2021.

Zoe Martinez

[Zoe Martinez \(Feb 22, 2021 14:58 PST\)](#)

Zoe Martinez, Vice President of Finance

Associated Students, Inc

Krishan Malhotra

[Krishan Malhotra \(Feb 22, 2021 15:17 PST\)](#)

Krishan Malhotra, Governmental Relations
Coordinator

Associated Students, Inc.