



YOUR GUIDE TO COLLEGE SUCCESS

ACADEMIC PREPARATION:

Maximizing Student Success

Use this guide to understand placement in first-year General Education (GE) English and math/quantitative reasoning(QR) courses for first-year students and to learn about the CSU's Supportive Pathways for First-Year Students Program.



ACADEMIC PREPARATION = COLLEGE SUCCESS

The California State University (CSU) is committed to providing students a successful college experience. The CSU's academic preparation policy uses multiple factors known as "multiple measures" to evaluate a student's academic preparation in GE English and GE mathematics/QR courses. It provides more innovative and targeted academic support to help students achieve academic success. The goal is for students to be fully prepared for the rigor of university coursework.

How Does the CSU's Academic Preparation Policy Help First-Year Students?

- Provides an early assessment of English and math skills to better prepare students for college-level coursework.
- Uses multiple measures to provide students different ways to demonstrate college readiness including assessment exams and high school coursework.
- Allows the university to enroll students in GE English and math/QR courses that meet their needs and career goals.

Multiple Measures for Placement Include:

**CAASPP/EAP, AP, IB,
CLEP, ACT and SAT**

**High School Grade
Point Average (GPA)**

**High School and
College Coursework**

**High School
Math GPA**

The CSU will use the highest achieved measure to determine placement in the appropriate GE English and math/QR courses.

Please note: The CSU no longer uses ACT or SAT scores to determine admission eligibility. If accepted to a CSU campus, ACT or SAT test scores can be used as a measure for placement in the appropriate mathematics or English (written communication) courses.

For more information visit Frequently Asked Questions at <https://www.calstate.edu/apply/faq>.

Why Is the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)/EAP Important?

CAASPP/EAP provides an early indicator of students' readiness to take GE English and math courses. The CAASPP English language arts/literacy and mathematics exams, also referred to as Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments take place during their junior year giving students the opportunity to enroll in appropriate English and math courses in their senior year to strengthen their skills. The CSU uses the CAASPP/EAP English language arts/literacy and mathematics results as one of the multiple measures that can help place students in the appropriate first-year GE English and GE mathematics/QR courses.

How Do Students Obtain CAASPP/EAP Scores?

The CAASPP/EAP scores are included in the CAASPP Student Score Report the school district provides to students in early fall of the senior year.

Who Should Enroll in the CSU Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum (ERWC) Course?

The ERWC course is a 12th-grade-approved yearlong college-preparatory English course designed to strengthen students' skills to be better prepared for college coursework. The course is a component of the CSU's Early Assessment Program (EAP) and approved as an "A-G" (Subject Area B) course for UC and CSU college eligibility.

Students needing additional preparation in their senior year, as determined by their CAASPP/EAP results, should take a 12th-grade-approved yearlong English course. The CSU highly recommends that students enroll in the ERWC course, if offered at their high school. The completion of the ERWC course with a C- or better is considered for placement in GE English courses. AP and weighted honors English are also 12th-grade-approved yearlong courses seniors may take to meet the requirement (must earn a C- or better). See English Placement Checklist for more information.

Why Take a Senior Year Math Course?

Taking a math course in their senior year better prepares students for college coursework. Other advantages include potential reduction in college costs and accelerated graduation. The CSU highly recommends students complete a fourth year of math (must earn a C- or better) and will consider the completion of four years of math for placement in GE math/QR courses.

Students needing additional preparation in their senior year, as determined by CAASPP/EAP results, are advised to take an advanced mathematics course beyond algebra II or integrated mathematics III. Some course examples include trigonometry, college algebra, precalculus, calculus, discrete mathematics, finite mathematics, etc. that are approved by UC Doorways <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist>. See Math Placement Checklists for more information.

What Are GE Area A2 and B4 Requirements?

All first-year students must complete the CSU General Education (GE) requirements to graduate from the CSU. Area A2 (written communication) and Area B4 (math/QR) are part of the CSU GE requirements.

What Is a Pre-STEM, STEM or Math-Intensive Major?

This refers to majors that typically are grounded in science, technology, engineering or math. Other majors such as business and social science may be considered math-intensive majors. Students should check with the CSU campuses they are considering to find out whether their major of interest is considered math-intensive.

How Do Students Determine Which English and Math Classes to Enroll in Once Admitted to a CSU Campus?

Students will receive guidance on their GE English and math course pathway from the CSU they will be attending.



What Is the Supportive Pathways for First-Year Students Program and Who Participates?

The program offers academic and social support that align with incoming first-year students' needs. Support will be provided to students identified through CSU placement standards needing support in their GE English (A2) and math/QR (B4) courses. The goal is to ensure students successfully complete these courses within their first year.

- The program will take place at the CSU they attend during their first year and may include summer instruction.
- For general information about the program, including fees, visit <https://csustudentsuccess.org/supportive-pathways-first-year-students-program>. Students are encouraged to visit the website of the CSU campus they plan to attend.
- Eligible financial aid applicants who have a Student Aid Index (SAI) of \$6,000 or less are eligible for a waiver of the per unit program fee.

How Does Supportive Pathways for First-Year Students Help Students?

- Curriculum helps prepare students for their GE and major coursework requirements.
- Fosters a sense of community and belonging through services that include support in and out of the classroom experience.
- Helps students establish connections with their peers, faculty and staff in their first days as a CSU student.



csustudentsuccess.org/supportive-pathways-first-year-students-program

FREQUENTLY USED TERMS

- **A-G Courses:** These are courses you have to take in high school to be eligible to apply to the California State University (CSU). They're called "A-G" subject requirements.
- **ACT:** American College Assessment is an assessment the CSU uses as one of the measures for placement in English (A2) and mathematics/quantitative reasoning (B4) courses.
- **AP:** Advanced Placement
- **CAASPP/EAP:** California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress/Early Assessment Program
- **CLEP:** College Level Examination Program
- **ERWC:** CSU Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum
- **GE:** General Education
- **High School Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation:**
Includes "A-G" courses from grades 10th and 11th as reported on the Cal State Apply application.
- **High School Math Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation:**
Includes 9th, 10th and 11th grade math courses completed in Area C and quantitative reasoning courses completed in Area G as reported on the Cal State Apply application. Note: algebra I and geometry courses taken in middle school and reported on the Cal State Apply application will also be included in the calculation.
- **IB:** International Baccalaureate
- **SAT:** An assessment the CSU uses as one of the measures for placement in English (A2) and mathematics/quantitative reasoning (B4) courses.
- **Five or More Years of English:** Completion of a college prep or college-level English course from Area B during the high school years, in addition to the four years of Area B English subject requirement.



PLACEMENT IN GE A2 ENGLISH/WRITTEN COMMUNICATION: All Majors

Check the boxes that match your test scores and completed coursework.



Fulfilled GE English (A2) Requirement

Advanced Placement (AP) Test Score

- ☐ 3 or above: AP Language and Composition
- ☐ 3 or above: AP Literature and Composition

College Transfer Coursework:

- ☐ Completed college course (C- or better) that satisfies GE CSU Area A2 (written communication)

If you checked one of the boxes in this orange section **stop here**. You have met the GE A2 English requirement.

If none of the criteria above apply, go to the next section



Enroll in GE English (A2) Course

CAASPP/EAP English Test Score:

- ☐ Standard Exceeded (Level 4)
- ☐ Standard Met (Level 3) and completed 12th-grade-approved yearlong English course* (C- or better)

High School Courses and GPA:

- ☐ Weighted GPA 3.3 or above
- ☐ Weighted GPA 3.0 or above and completed a 12th-grade-approved yearlong English course* (C- or better)
- ☐ Weighted GPA 3.0 or above and completed five or more years of high school English

SAT English Test Score:

- ☐ 550 or above
- ☐ 510–540 and completed a 12th-grade-approved yearlong English course* (C- or better)

ACT English Test Score:

- ☐ 22 or above
- ☐ 19–21 and completed a 12th-grade-approved yearlong English course* (C- or better)

If you checked one of the boxes in this blue section **stop here**. You will be placed in a GE A2 English course.

If none of the criteria above apply, go to the next section



Enroll in a Supported GE English (A2) Course

You may benefit from additional support through the Supportive Pathways for First-Year Students program. These programs and services, which may have different names at each CSU, are intended to help contribute to a successful first year at the CSU.

Offerings may include stretch English courses that are extended over multiple terms, study labs, mentoring and advising support, workshops and tutoring.

Learn more about what services are available to you by reaching out to the CSU you plan to attend.

*CSU ERWC, AP, IB, or weighted honors English.

PLACEMENT IN GE B4 MATH/QR: Algebra and Statistics Disciplines, Non-STEM and Undecided Majors

Check the boxes that match your test scores and completed coursework.



Fulfilled GE Math (B4) Requirement

Advanced Placement (AP) Test Score:

- ☐ 3 or above: Calculus AB
- ☐ 3 or above: Calculus BC
- ☐ 3 or above: AP Statistics

International Baccalaureate (IB) Test Score:

- ☐ 4 or above on Math Higher Level (HL)

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Score:

- ☐ 50 or above on calculus, college algebra, precalculus or college mathematics

College Transfer Coursework:

- ☐ Completed CSU course prior to fall matriculation or college course (C- or better) that satisfies the CSU GE Area B4 math/QR requirement

If you checked one of the boxes in this orange section **stop here**. If needed, you will be placed in the next math course per your major requirement.

If none of the criteria above apply, go to the next section



Enroll in GE Math (B4) Course

CAASPP/EAP Math Exam Score:

- ☐ Standard Exceeded (Level 4)
- ☐ Standard Met (Level 3) and completed 12th-grade-approved yearlong advanced math course beyond algebra II or integrated math III (C- or better)
- ☐ Standard Nearly Met and completed four or more years of high school math or QR

High School Courses and GPA:

- ☐ Weighted math GPA 3.0 or above and completed 12th-grade-approved yearlong math course beyond algebra II or integrated math III (C- or better)
- ☐ Weighted math GPA 3.0 or above and completed five or more years of math or QR
- ☐ Weighted GPA 3.7 or above
- ☐ Weighted GPA 3.5 or above and completed four or more years of math or QR

SAT Math Test Score:

- ☐ 570 or above
- ☐ 520–560 and completed 12th-grade-approved yearlong advanced math course beyond algebra II or integrated math III (C- or better)

ACT Math Test Score:

- ☐ 23 or above
- ☐ 20–22 and completed 12th-grade-approved yearlong advanced math course beyond algebra II or integrated math III (C- or better)

If you checked one of the boxes in this blue section **stop here**. You will be placed in a GE B4 math/QR course appropriate for your major.

If none of the criteria section apply, go to the next section



Enroll in Supported GE Math (B4) Course

You may benefit from additional support through the Supportive Pathways for First-Year Students program. These programs and services, which may have different names at each CSU, are intended to help contribute to a successful first year at the CSU.

Offerings may include stretch math/QR courses that are extended over multiple terms, study labs, mentoring and advising support, workshops and tutoring.

Learn more about what services are available to you by reaching out to the CSU you plan to attend.

PLACEMENT IN GE B4 MATH/QR: Pre-STEM/STEM and Other Math-Intensive Majors

Check the boxes that match your test scores and completed coursework.



Fulfilled Requirement

Advanced Placement (AP) Test Score:

- ☐ 3 or above: Calculus AB
- ☐ 3 or above: Calculus BC
- ☐ 3 or above: AP Statistics

International Baccalaureate (IB) Test Score:

- ☐ 4 or above on Math Higher Level (HL)

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Score:

- ☐ 50 or above on calculus, college algebra, precalculus or college mathematics

College Transfer Coursework

- ☐ Completed CSU course prior to fall matriculation or college course (C- or better) that satisfies CSU GE Area B4 math/QR requirement

If you checked one of the boxes in this orange section **stop here**. You will enroll in the next math/QR course per your major requirement.

If none of the criteria above apply, go to the next section



Enroll in GE Math Course

CAASPP/EAP Math Exam Score:

- ☐ Standard Exceeded (Level 4)
- ☐ Standard Met (Level 3) and completed 12th-grade-approved yearlong advanced math course beyond algebra II or integrated math III (C- or better)

High School Courses and GPA:

- ☐ Weighted math GPA 3.5 and completed 12th-grade-approved yearlong advanced math course beyond algebra II or integrated math III (C- or better)
- ☐ Weighted math GPA 3.5 or above and five or more years of math or QR
- ☐ Weighted GPA 3.7 or above (C- or better)

SAT Math Test Score:

- ☐ 570 or above
- ☐ 520–560 and completed 12th-grade-approved yearlong advanced math course beyond algebra II or integrated math III (C- or better)

ACT Math Test Score:

- ☐ 23 or above
- ☐ 20–22 and completed 12th-grade-approved yearlong math course beyond algebra II or integrated math III (C- or better)

If you checked one of the boxes in this blue section **stop here**. You will be placed in a GE B4 math/QR course appropriate for your major.

If none of the criteria above apply, go to the next section



Enroll in Supported GE Math (B4) Course

You may benefit from additional support through the Supportive Pathways for First-Year Students program. These programs and services, which may have different names at each CSU, are intended to help contribute to a successful first year at the CSU.

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Learn more about what services are available to you by reaching out to the CSU you plan to attend.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Learn more about Academic Preparation

- “A-G” Requirements
- English and Math Placement
- CAASPP Assessments
- AP, IB and Dual Enrollment



Scan the Code or visit:
[https://csustudentsuccess.org/
resources](https://csustudentsuccess.org/resources)



To learn more about Academic
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local CSU campus

CSU The California State University

Academic Success and Inclusive Excellence
401 Golden Shore, Long Beach, CA 90802-4210
calstate.edu