CSU The California State University

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 courses for first-time freshmen and to learn about the CSU's Early Start Program.

Academic Preparation = College Success

The California State University (CSU) is committed to providing students a successful college experience and has implemented measures to ensure first-time freshmen are placed in appropriate GE courses in English and math. These courses are known as written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning (QR). The goal is for students to be fully prepared and successful at the CSU campus they attend.

How Does the CSU's Academic Preparation Policy Help First-Time Freshmen?

There are several ways to determine which GE English and math courses are right for each student. Many factors known as "multiple measures" will be used to evaluate each student's academic preparation in these subjects.

Why Does This Matter?

- An early assessment of English and math skills can better prepare students for college-level coursework
- Multiple measures provide students different ways to demonstrate college readiness
- The use of high school coursework is shown to be a strong predictor of a student's success in college
- This allows the university to enroll students in GE English and math courses that are aligned with their needs and career goals

Multiple Measures for Placement Include:

Standardized Tests: CAASPP/EAP, ACT, SAT, AP, IB, and CLEP

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.

Why are Standardized Assessments (CAASPP/EAP, SAT, ACT) Important?

The assessments provide an early indicator of students' readiness to take GE English and math courses. Taking these assessments in their junior year gives students the opportunity to strengthen their skills during their senior year by enrolling in appropriate courses.

How is the EAP Status Determined?

The CSU uses the CAASPP in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics to determine a student's Early Assessment Program (EAP) status. In the spring of their junior year, students take the CAASPP English Language Arts/Literacy and math exams, also referred to as SBAC.

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.

*Coursework must be completed with a C- or better.

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

The ERWC course is a 12th grade approved year-long college-preparatory English course designed to strengthens 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 & CSU college eligibility.

Students needing additional preparation in their senior year, as determined by CAASPP/EAP, SAT or ACT results, should take a 12th grade approved year-long English course. The CSU highly recommends students to 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, IB and weighted Honors English are also 12th grade approved year-long 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 strengthens students' skills to be better prepared 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 courses.

Students needing additional preparation in their senior year, as determined by CAASPP/EAP, SAT or ACT results, should take a 12th grade approved math course beyond algebra II. See Math Placement Checklists for more information.

What are GE Area A2 and B4?

All first-time freshmen are required to 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 Supported Instruction?

Students needing academic support will be placed in supported instruction, which refers to various ways the CSU helps students in GE coursework to achieve college success. Supported course models may include labs, tutoring, workshops, and stretch courses (courses extended over terms) that are connected to credit bearing college-level courses.

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

This refers to majors that are typically grounded in science, technology, engineering and math. Other majors such as business and social science may be considered math-intensive majors. Students should check with the CSU campuses under consideration to determine if 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?

During orientation, students will be guided to register for courses that align best with their academic needs. Advice will be based on multiple measures.

Who Needs to Participate in the Early Start Program?

The CSU's Early Start Program (ESP) is designed to provide support to admitted students to help them succeed in GE English and math/QR courses.

- If required to participate in the ESP, as determined by multiple measures, students will begin in the summer before the start of their freshman year.
- For general information about the ESP, including fees and course listings, visit csustudentsuccess.org/earlystart. Students are encouraged to visit the CSU campus website for ESP information once admitted.
- Eligible financial aid applicants with an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) of $5,000 or less will be eligible for a waiver of the per unit ESP fee.

CSustudentsuccess.org/earlystart

Frequently Used Terms

- **ACT**: American College Test
- **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 Course
- **ESP**: Early Start Program
- **GE**: General Education
- **High School Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation**: High school GPA is calculated using grades in "a- g" courses completed after the 9th grade as reported on the Cal State Apply application.
- **High School Math Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation**: High school math GPA is calculated using math courses completed in Area C, includes middle school algebra I and geometry courses, as reported on the Cal State Apply application.
- **IB**: International Baccalaureate
- **SAT**: Scholastic Aptitude Test
- **SBAC**: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
- **5 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 4 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 Requirement

Advanced Placement (AP) Test Score:

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

College Transfer Coursework:

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

If you checked one of the boxes above, stop here. You have met the GE A2 English requirement.

If none of the criteria apply, go to the next column →

Enroll in GE English Course

CAASPP/EAP English Test Score:

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

****New SAT English Test Score:**

- ☐ 550 or above
- ☐ 510 – 540 and completion of a 12th grade approved year-long English course (C- or better)*

ACT English Test Score:

- ☐ 22 or above
- ☐ 19-21 and completion of a 12th grade approved year-long English course (C- or better)*

High School Courses and GPA:

- ☐ Weighted GPA 3.3 or above
- ☐ GPA 3.0 or above and completion of a 12th grade approved year-long English course (C- or better)*
- ☐ GPA 3.0 GPA or above and completion of Honors English course
- ☐ GPA 3.0 or above and 5 or more years of high school English

If you checked one of the boxes above, stop here. You will be placed in a GE A2 English course.

If none of the criteria apply, go to the next column →

Enroll in Supported GE English Course

****New SAT English Test Score:**

- ☐ 510 – 540 and 4 or more years of high school English

ACT Test Score:

- ☐ 19-21 and 4 or more years of high school English

High School Courses and GPA:

- ☐ Weighted GPA 3.0 or above and 4 or more years of English

If you checked one of the boxes above, stop here. You will be placed in a supported GE A2 English course. Early Start Program (ESP) participation is recommended but not required.

If none of the criteria apply, go to the next column →

ESP Required

Enroll in Supported GE English Course

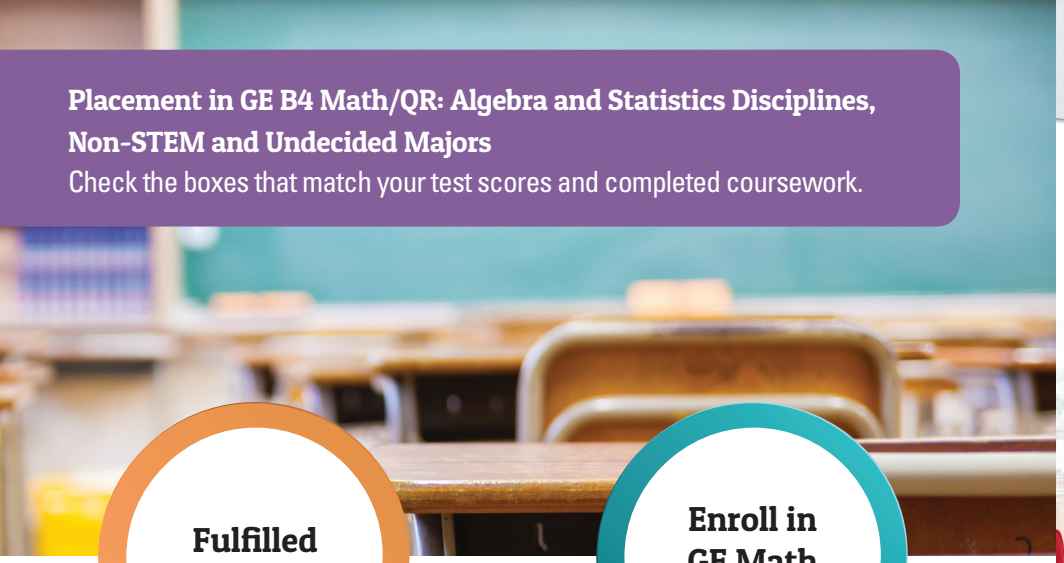
If you did not meet any of the criteria in the first 3 columns, you will be required to participate in the Early Start Program (ESP) and placed in a supported GE A2 English course.

***12th grade approved year-long English courses: CSU ERWC, AP, IB, Weighted Honors English**

****SAT conversion of scores prior to March 2016: https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-scoring-before-march-2016**

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 Requirement

Advanced Placement (AP) Test Score:

- ☐ 3 or above: Calculus AB
- ☐ 3 or above: Calculus BC
- ☐ 3 or above: AP Statistics
- ☐ 3 or above AP Computer Science Principles

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, College Algebra-Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, or Trigonometry

College Transfer Coursework:

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

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

If none of the criteria apply, go to the next column →

***SAT conversion of scores prior to March 2016: https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-scoring-before-march-2016**

Enroll in GE Math Course

CAASPP/EAP Math Exam Score:

- ☐ Standard Exceeded (Level 4)
- ☐ Standard Met (Level 3) and completed 12th grade approved year-long math course beyond Algebra 2 (C- or better)
- ☐ Standard Met and 4 or more years of high school math or QR

***New SAT Math Test Score:**

- ☐ 570 or above
- ☐ 550 or above on Subject Test in Math Level 1 or 2
- ☐ 520 – 560 and completed 12th grade approved year-long math course beyond Algebra 2 (C- or better)

ACT Math Test Score:

- ☐ 23 or above
- ☐ 20-22 and completed 12th grade approved year-long math course beyond Algebra 2 (C- or better)

High School Courses and GPA

- ☐ Weighted math GPA 3.0 or above and completed 12th grade approved year-long math course beyond Algebra 2 (C- or better)
- ☐ Weighted math GPA 3.0 or above and 5 or more years of math or QR
- ☐ Weighted GPA 3.7 or above
- ☐ Weighted GPA 3.5 or above and 4 or more years of math or QR

If you checked one of the boxes above, stop here. You will be placed in a GE B4 math/QR course.

If none of the criteria apply, go to the next column →

Enroll in Supported GE Math Course

High School GPA:

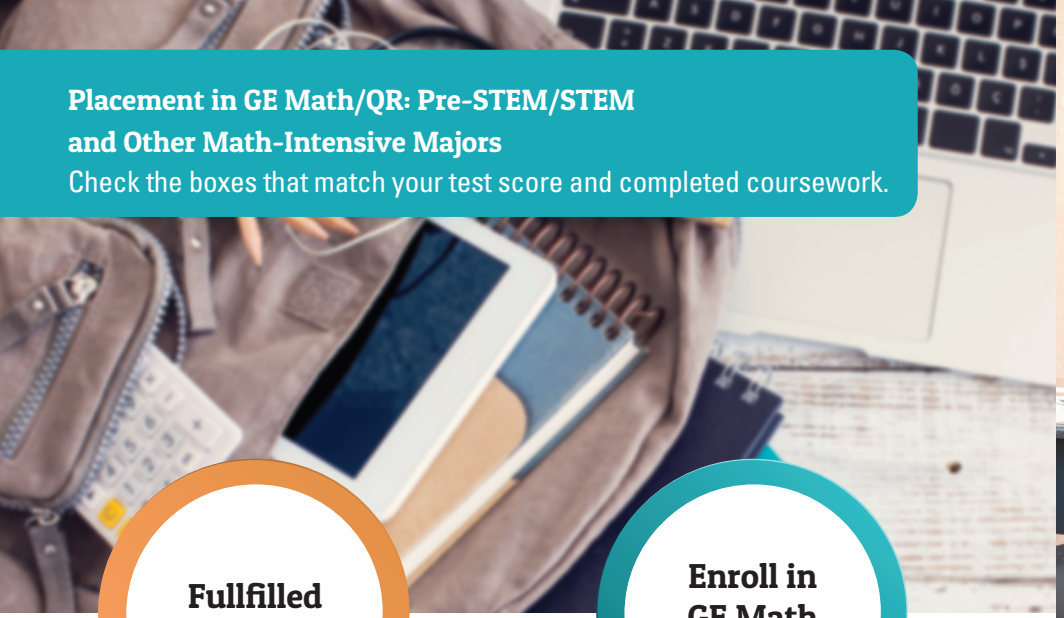
- ☐ Weighted math GPA 3.3 or above
- ☐ Weighted GPA 3.0 or above

If you checked one of the boxes above, stop here. You will be placed in a supported GE B4 math/QR course. Early Start Program (ESP) participation is recommended but not required.

If none of the criteria apply, go to the next column →

ESP Required Enroll in Supported GE Math Course

If you did not meet any of the criteria in the first three columns, you will be required to participate in the Early Start Program (ESP) and placed in a supported GE B4 math/QR course.



Placement in GE Math/QR: Pre-STEM/STEM and Other Math-Intensive Majors

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

Fullfilled Requirement

Advanced Placement (AP) Test Score:
- ☐ 3 or above: Calculus AB
- ☐ 3 or above: Calculus BC
- ☐ 3 or above: AP Statistics
- ☐ 3 or above: AP Computer Science Principles

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, College Algebra-Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, or Trigonometry

College Transfer Coursework
- ☐ Completed college course (C- or better) that satisfies CSU GE Area B4 math/QR requirement

If you checked one box above, you will enroll in the next math /QR course per your major.

If none of the criteria apply, go to the next column →

***SAT conversion of scores prior to March 2016: https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-scoring-before-march-2016**

Enroll in GE Math Course

CAASPP/EAP Math Exam Score:
- ☐ Standard Exceeded (Level 4)
- ☐ Standard Met (Level 3) and completed 12th grade approved year-long math course beyond Algebra 2 (C- or better)

***New SAT Math Test Score:**
- ☐ 570 or above
- ☐ 550 or above on Subject Test in Math Level 1 or 2
- ☐ 520 – 560 and completed 12th grade approved year-long math course beyond Algebra 2 (C- or better)

ACT Math Test Score:
- ☐ 23 or above
- ☐ 20-22 and completed 12th grade approved year-long math course beyond Algebra 2 (C- or better)

High School Courses and GPA
- ☐ Weighted math GPA 3.5 and completed 12th grade approved year-long math course beyond Algebra 2 (C- or better)
- ☐ Weighted math GPA 3.5 or above and 5 or more years of math or QR
- ☐ Weighted GPA 3.7 or above

If you checked one box above, you will be placed in a GE B4 math/QR course appropriae for your major.

If none of the criteria apply, go to the next column →

Enroll in Supported GE Math Course

High School GPA:
- ☐ Weighted math GPA 3.3 or above

If you checked the box above, stop here.
You will be placed in a supported GE B4 math/QR course appropriate for your major. Early Start Program (ESP) participation is recommended but not required.

If none of the criteria apply, go to the next column →

ESP Required

Enroll in Supported GE Math Course

If you did not meet any of the criteria in the first three columns, you will be required to participate in the Early Start Program (ESP) and placed in a supported GE B4 math/QR course appropriate for your major.

Additional Resources

Explore English and math interactive tools:
csustudentsuccess.org

Register for SAT: **sat.collegeboard.org**

Register for ACT: **actstudent.org**

Obtain CAASPP Information:
cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa

To learn more about Academic Preparation contact your local CSU campus:
calstate.edu/eap/documents/EAPRoster.pdf

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calstate.edu