

VII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES (Continued)

A. Academic Council (Continued)

• Michael T. Brown, Chair

2. Proposed amendment to [Senate Regulation 636](#) (SR636) University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement (**action**)

Proposed Amendment to Senate Regulation 636

The University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) has proposed amendments to SR 636, which governs the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR). In accordance with Senate Bylaw 116, Authority of the Assembly – Part II.E., “The Assembly is authorized to approve modifications to the University Academic Senate legislation. . . Except for Bylaws marked “[Protected – See Bylaw 166.E]”, . . . modification of Regulations requires the approval of a majority of all voting members of the Assembly present. . . . Modification of legislation shall take effect immediately following approval unless a different date is specified or required.”

The proposed amendments to SR 636 were approved by the Academic Council at its meeting of December 19, 2007. The University Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction has found the proposed amendment consonant with the Code of the Academic Senate.

BACKGROUND:

UCOPE presented its amendments in two parts. The first part would cap ELWR class-sizes at no more than 20 students, which is in alignment with both Comparison Eight institutions and national standards. The second part would eliminate the names of specific tests that can be used to pass the ELWR, as well as remove redundancies and add clarification to the regulation. As a result of the responses received from the systemwide review of the proposed amendments, the Academic Council recommended approving the latter amendment eliminating the names of the tests. With respect to capping the class-size, Council readily appreciated the pedagogical advantages of small composition classes in principle, but was uneasy about imposing another unfunded mandate on the system, however meritorious, and therefore did not approve the class-size cap. In addition, the Academic Council strongly encourages the Administration to resolve financial issues involved in limiting all ELWR classes to 20 students.

Current Language

636. University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement (Am 19 Feb 2004)

- A. University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement is a reading and writing proficiency requirement. Each student must be able to understand and to respond adequately to written material typical of reading assignments in freshman courses. This ability must be demonstrated in student writing that communicates effectively to University faculty. (Am 30 Nov 83; Am 23 May 96; Am 19 Feb 2004)
- B. Prior to enrollment at the University of California, each student may satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement either (Am 19 Feb 2004):

1. by attaining a score approved by the University Committee on Preparatory Education on one of the following examinations:
 - a. the University of California Analytical Writing Placement Exam [formerly called the Subject A Examination] (Am 19 Feb 2004)
 - b. the SAT II Writing Test
 - c. the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Examination
 - d. the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination,
 - e. the International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examination in English (Language A only); or
 2. by earning at least 3 semester credits or 4 quarter units of transferable college credit in English composition with a letter grade not below C. (Am 6 Mar 74; Am 28 May 80; Am 26 May 82; Am 30 Nov 83; Am 4 May 86; Am 23 May 1996)
- C. (1) A student who has not satisfied the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement prior to enrollment in the University of California must satisfy the requirement by passing an examination or successfully completing a course in English composition or another course or program of study. Any such course or program of study or examination must be approved for this purpose by an appropriate agency of the Academic Senate Division of the student's campus. To satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement by successfully completing a course or program of study, a student must enroll for a letter grade and earn a grade of C or above. A student who receives a final grade of C- or below may repeat the course. (Am 19 Feb 2004)
- (2) A student must satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement as early as possible during the first year in residence. A student who has not done so after three quarters or two semesters of enrollment will not be eligible to enroll for a fourth quarter or third semester. Exceptions to this requirement may be made by an appropriate agency of the Academic Senate Division of the student's campus. (Am 26 May 82; Am 23 May 96; Am 19 Feb 2004)
- D. Students may satisfy the requirement by passing an examination or by successful completion of a one-quarter or one-semester University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement course in English composition or other approved course or program of study. The examination satisfying the requirement must meet the standards established by the University Committee on Preparatory Education. The University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement course must be taken for a letter grade and passed with a grade of C or higher. Students receiving a final grade of C- or below may repeat the course. (Am 28 May 80; Am 26 May 82; Am 19 Feb 2004)
- E. Any award of baccalaureate credit for University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement course(s) must be consonant with [SR 761](#). (En 30 Nov 83) (Am 19 Feb 2004)
- F. Students who, prior to initial enrollment at UC, have earned at least four quarter units of transferable college credit in English composition with a grade not lower than C have

satisfied the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement. (Am 30 Nov 83; Am 6 May 86; Am 19 Feb 2004)

- G. Any student who has not satisfied the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement prior to enrollment at UC must satisfy it by passing an approved course or other program prescribed by the student's UC campus of residence for satisfying the requirement. Only after satisfaction of the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement can students take for transfer credit a course in English composition after enrollment at UC. (Effective for students enrolling at UC in Fall 1986 or thereafter.) (En 4 Mar 86; Am 19 Feb 2004)

Proposed Language

636. University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement (Am 19 Feb 2004)

- A. University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement is a reading and writing proficiency requirement. Each student must be able to understand and to respond adequately to written material typical of reading assignments in freshman courses. This ability must be demonstrated in student writing that communicates effectively to University faculty. (Am 30 Nov 83; Am 23 May 96; Am 19 Feb 2004)
- ~~B. Prior to enrollment at the University of California, each student may satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement either (Am 19 Feb 2004):~~
- ~~1. by attaining a score approved by the University Committee on Preparatory Education on one of the following examinations:~~
 - ~~a. the University of California Analytical Writing Placement Exam [formerly called the Subject A Examination] (Am 19 Feb 2004)~~
 - ~~b. the SAT II Writing Test~~
 - ~~c. the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Examination~~
 - ~~d. the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination,~~
 - ~~e. the International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examination in English (Language A only); or~~
 - ~~2. by earning at least 3 semester credits or 4 quarter units of transferable college credit in English composition with a letter grade not below C. (Am 6 Mar 74; Am 28 May 80; Am 26 May 82; Am 30 Nov 83; Am 4 May 86; Am 23 May 1996)~~

B. There are three ways a student may satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement prior to enrollment at the University of California: by passing the University of California Analytical Writing Placement Examination, by attaining an acceptable score on another approved test of Writing, or by earning at least 3 semester credits or 4 quarter units of transferable college credit in English composition.

- 1. The content of the University of California Analytical Writing Placement Examination shall be approved by the University Committee on Preparatory**

Education, which shall also set the passing standard on the University of California Analytical Writing Placement Examination.

- 2. The list of approved tests of Writing shall be determined by the University Committee on Preparatory Education, with the concurrence of the Academic Council of the Academic Senate. The acceptable scores for each test of Writing shall be determined by the University Committee on Preparatory Education. (The current list of approved tests and the corresponding acceptable scores is available at <http://www.ucop.edu/sas/awpe/index.html>.)**
- 3. The student must earn a letter grade of at least C in any transferable college English composition course used to satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement.**

~~C. (1) A student who has not satisfied the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement prior to enrollment in the University of California must satisfy the requirement by passing an examination or successfully completing a course in English composition or another course or program of study. Any such course or program of study or examination must be approved for this purpose by an appropriate agency of the Academic Senate Division of the student's campus. To satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement by successfully completing a course or program of study, a student must enroll for a letter grade and earn a grade of C or above. A student who receives a final grade of C- or below may repeat the course. (Am 19 Feb 2004)~~

~~(2) A student must satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement as early as possible during the first year in residence. A student who has not done so after three quarters or two semesters of enrollment will not be eligible to enroll for a fourth quarter or third semester. Exceptions to this requirement may be made by an appropriate agency of the Academic Senate Division of the student's campus. (Am 26 May 82; Am 23 May 96; Am 19 Feb 2004)~~

C. There are two ways a student may satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement subsequent to enrollment at the University of California: by passing the University of California Analytical Writing Placement Examination, or by successfully completing a course or program of study approved for that purpose by an appropriate agency of the Academic Senate Division of the student's campus.

- 1. To satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement by means of a course, the student must earn a C or above or its equivalent. A student who receives a final grade of C- or below has not fulfilled the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement and may repeat the course(s).**
- 2. Any award of baccalaureate credit for University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement course(s) must be consonant with [SR 761](#).**

~~D. Students may satisfy the requirement by passing an examination or by successful completion of a one quarter or one semester University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement course in English composition or other approved course or program of study. The examination satisfying the requirement must meet the standards established by the University Committee on Preparatory Education. The University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement course must be taken for a letter grade and passed with a grade of C or higher. Students receiving a final grade of C or below may repeat the course. (Am 28 May 80; Am 26 May 82; Am 19 Feb 2004)~~

D. A student who has not satisfied the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement prior to enrollment at the University of California must do so as early as possible during the first year in residence. A student who has not satisfied the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement after three quarters or two semesters of enrollment will not be eligible to enroll for a fourth quarter or third semester. Exceptions to this requirement may be made by an appropriate agency of the Academic Senate Division of the student's campus.

~~E. Any award of baccalaureate credit for University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement course(s) must be consonant with [SR 761](#). (En 30 Nov 83) [See [Legislative Ruling 2.85](#)] (Am 19 Feb 2004)~~

E. Once enrolled at the University of California, a student must satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement before earning transfer credit for the purpose of satisfying any subsequent University of California writing requirements by taking courses at other institutions.

~~F. Students who, prior to initial enrollment at UC, have earned at least four quarter units of transferable college credit in English composition with a grade not lower than C have satisfied the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement. (Am 30 Nov 83; Am 6 May 86; Am 19 Feb 2004)~~

~~G. Any student who has not satisfied the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement prior to enrollment at UC must satisfy it by passing an approved course or other program prescribed by the student's UC campus of residence for satisfying the requirement. Only after satisfaction of the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement can students take for transfer credit a course in English composition after enrollment at UC. (Effective for students enrolling at UC in Fall 1986 or thereafter.) (En 4 Mar 86; Am 19 Feb 2004)~~

Justification

Under the Academic Senate's current regulation 636, prior to enrollment at the University of California students may satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) either by attaining a score approved by the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) on an approved examination, or by earning transferable college credit in an English composition course. After enrollment, students may either take the UC-provided

examination, the Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE), or enroll in and pass a course designed to meet the ELWR.

The proposed amendment addresses two issues within the regulation as currently written: 1) The need to remove names of specific non-UC examinations and 2) the need to make interpretation and application of the regulation easier by removing confusing and redundant language.

I.

There are presently five examinations approved under Senate Regulation 636 by which a student may satisfy the Entry Level Writing Requirement, including the University of California Analytical Writing Placement Exam (formerly called the Subject A Examination), the SAT II Writing Test, the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Examination, the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination, and the International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examination in English (Language A only).

A change to Senate Regulation 636 is necessary because the nature of the ACT and SAT examinations has changed effective for students applying to enter the University of California as of fall 2006. Both the ACT and SAT examinations now include a writing component, initiated in spring 2005, and have had a name change.¹ Rather than list the new names of the examinations in the proposed regulation change, UCOPE believes the names should be removed altogether. The need for their removal became particularly clear last year, as UCOPE established provisional scores on the ACT and SAT examinations that will satisfy the ELWR. These provisional scores may have to be revised, however, once more data are available, and it does not seem expeditious to have to revise an Academic Senate regulation each time there is a change in a writing examination or in its analysis.

The proposed regulation is now completely generic as to the examination names,² and retains the essence of [UCOPE's charge](#) to supervise the ELWR. Under the proposed regulation, UCOPE could add or subtract examinations from an approved list, but without changing the regulation. UCOPE believes that the proposed regulation allows flexibility for approving writing examinations that other testing agencies may present to the University of California

¹ The new SAT examination includes a writing component, obviating the need for the SAT II Writing Test which is no longer administered by the College Board. For the first time, the ACT examination includes a writing component.

² Proposed Senate Regulation 636 is modeled after [Senate Regulation 418](#), amended May 28, 2003, which reads:

418. {SR 418 as set forth below, is to be valid for freshmen entering the University as of fall 2006}

Each Applicant for admission must submit scores on an approved core test of Mathematics, Language Arts, and Writing. The applicant must also submit scores on approved supplementary subject matter tests to be taken in two different "a-f" subject areas: History/Social Science, English, Mathematics, Laboratory Science, Language other than English, or Visual and/or Performing Arts. (Am 4 May 95; Am 28 May 2003)

Approval of tests shall be determined by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools, with the concurrence of Academic Council and the Assembly of the Academic Senate. The minimum scores acceptable shall be determined by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools, and may vary depending upon the overall grade-point record of the applicant. (Am 28 May 2003)

and UCOPE as proposed tests for satisfying the Entry Level Writing Requirement.¹ Furthermore, in UCOPE's view it is inappropriate to name commercial companies or agencies in Academic Senate regulations.

II.

Secondly, the language in the regulation in its current iteration is often confusing and redundant, leading to many questions on the part of interested parties, such as high school and transfer students, their counselors, and even within the Academic Senate and the Office of the President. For example, current sections C (1) and G both address students who have not satisfied the ELWR prior to enrollment. Baccalaureate credit for both UC courses and transfer courses taken prior to passage of the ELWR are addressed in non-sequential sections. Sections B (2) and F are nearly indistinguishable. As a result, understanding the strictures of the ELWR is difficult, which causes frustration and often leads to guessing about the meaning of similar passages.

UCOPE believes reorganizing the regulation and incorporating more precise language will make it easier for non-UC persons and UC personnel alike to understand and apply the prerequisite of the Entry Level Writing Requirement. Clarifying Senate Regulation 636 will have the benefit of improving its accessibility to the parties most impacted by it.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of the proposed amendments to Senate Regulation 636

¹ For example, UCOPE has studied the appropriateness of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Standard Level English A1 Examination as an additional pathway for students to satisfy the Writing Requirement, and has found that the examination meets appropriate University of California writing standards. Amendment of Regulation 636 would also allow for inclusion of the IB examination as an acceptable method for students to satisfy the Writing Requirement.