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Effective Date: 7 / 18 / 2016

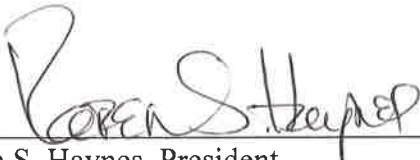
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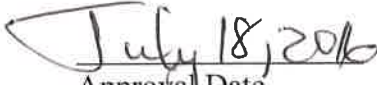
**Definition:** This policy outlines the pro-rated all-university graduation requirement for writing.

**Authority:** President of the University.

**Scope:** All degree-credit courses.

**Responsible Division:** Academic Affairs

  
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Karen S. Haynes, President

  
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Approval Date

  
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Graham Oberem, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs

  
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Approval Date

Revised: 7 / 18 / 2016  
Implemented: 07/25/2013

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## POLICY

With limited exceptions, every course carrying degree credit at CSUSM must have a writing component that can be achieved in a variety of ways depending on the course. The writing requirement for each individual student will vary by course units, as follows:

- 3 units and up = 2,500 words (approximately 10 pages)
- 2 units = 1,700 words
- 1 unit = 850 words

Thus, each student will write a minimum of 850 words for a one-unit course, a minimum of 1,700 words for a two-unit course, or a minimum of 2,500 words for courses of three units or more. All writing will be in English or a written language that meets the university's "Language Other Than English Requirement" (LOTER).

The Dean of Graduate Studies may exempt certain graduate courses from this requirement.