

The Most Common Student Questions and Answers about GVAR and GPE

There are two categories for these questions and answers:

- A. I have taken the GPE and have a question.
- B. I need to take the GPE and have a question.

A. I have taken the GPE and have a question.

Question:

What can I do if the English 301A or GVAR Portfolio class I need is full?

Answer:

GVAR is important, so enroll in an open section if at all possible. If your classes conflict, then put your name on the Waitlist in your My CSULB Shopping Cart for the time and section you wish. If you have additional concerns, contact GVAR eAdvising by email at GVAR-Advisor@csulb.edu.

Question:

How can I register if I have a GVAR Requirement Hold?

Answer:

If “Holds” on MyCSULB show “GVAR Requirement,” the registration hold is because you have **not taken the GVAR course** within the prescribed amount of time. You cannot register for any classes until you have contacted the GVAR Advisor. The advisor can review your situation and release the GVAR registration hold. Please contact GVAR eAdvising by email at GVAR-Advisor@csulb.edu.

Question:

How long do I have until I have to complete the GVAR Portfolio course?

Answer:

Undergraduate students must take the course within two semesters after taking the GPE test. However, we encourage you to take your GVAR Portfolio course right away, so you don't delay your graduation. Graduate students must take the course the semester following the GPE test.

- The [GVAR website](#) has additional information.

Question:

I scored 8, 9, or 10 on the GPE, and I need to enroll in a GVAR Portfolio class.
Can I take any GVAR Portfolio course?

Answer:

Yes and No.

- Yes, English 301B (ENGL 301B) and Fashion Merchandising and Design 450 (FMD 450) section in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences are open to all majors. However, FMD 450 has the following prerequisites: Completion of GE Foundation courses ANTH 120 or SOC 100 or 142, and upper-division standing, or instructor

consent.

- No, most GVAR courses are just for specific majors. If your major offers a GVAR Portfolio course, you should take it because it will focus on helping you to write in your major.
- The GVAR website has [a list of GVAR Portfolio classes](#) offered.

Question:

I scored 7 or below on the GPE and need to enroll in English 301A. Where do I find ENGL 301A course offerings?

Answer:

Go to [MyCSULB](#) to search for English 301A course offerings during the semester you need to enroll. Click on the “Search” tab. Select the “Term” from the pull-down menu to find the course availability for the semester of enrollment. Select the “Subject” from the pull-down menu, and select the course offering by name, English, and enter the course number 301A. The Search Result will display the course times and availabilities.

B. I need to take the GPE and have a question.

Question:

How do I register to take the GVAR Placement exam (GPE)?

Answer:

You can register for the GVAR Placement Exam (GPE) online with the link below:

- [Testing and Evaluation GPE registration page](#)

Question:

Can I retake the GPE?

Answer:

No, by CSULB policy you can take the GPE only once.

Question:

When is the next GPE offered?

Answer:

- [The Testing and Evaluation webpage](#), details where you will find the current test date offerings.

Question:

Are there any workshops offered to prepare me for the GPE and how much are they?

Answer:

Yes, and they are free! GPE workshops are offered by

- [Writer's Resource Lab](#)
- [Testing and Evaluation Office](#)

Question:

I signed up to take the GPE but missed it. Can I reschedule?

Answer:

Yes!

- [Reschedule at the Testing and Evaluation website](#)

Question:

How do I pay for the GPE?

Answer:

Go to the Testing & Evaluation Webpage and complete the GPE registration form. Once you click submit, you will be transferred to a page where you can pay.

- [Testing and Evaluation website](#)

Question:

I have a registration hold because I need to take the GEAR Placement Exam (GPE). What can I do?

Answer:

If “Holds” on MyCSULB show “Prevents Add Activity,” GPE Required, the registration hold is because you have **not taken the GPE test**. Contact the Testing Office at Testing@csulb.edu to resolve this hold. In order to have your hold released, you will need to register for the first upcoming GPE and contact the Department of Testing & Evaluation to file an [“Appeal to have a GEAR Placement Examination Hold Temporarily Removed.”](#)

Question:

Do all undergraduate transfer students need to take CSULB’s GEAR Placement Exam (GPE)?

Answer:

All undergraduate transfer students from community colleges must take the GPE. If you transfer from another CSU and have passed its GEAR writing requirement, you have satisfied the GEAR at CSULB.

Question:

How does the GEAR requirement affect graduate students at CSULB?

Answer:

- All graduate students (M.A., M.S., M.B.A) who have earned an undergraduate degree from an accredited U.S. university or college or earned an undergraduate degree from an accredited university from an English-speaking country, have satisfied the GEAR at CSULB.

List of Approved English-Speaking Countries

Antigua & Barbuda	Australia	Bahamas
Barbados	Belize	Bermuda
Botswana	Canada	Dominica
England	Fiji	Gambia
Ghana	Grand Cayman Islands	Grenada
Guyana	Jamaica	Kenya
Ireland & Northern Ireland	Liberia	New Zealand
Lesotho	Sierra Leone	St. Christopher – Nevis
Scotland	St. Lucia	St. Vincent & Grenadines
Saint Kitts	Tanzania	Trinidad & Tobago
Swaziland	Virgin Islands	Wales
Uganda	Zimbabwe	Zambia

- If you are a graduate student who scored a 4 or higher on the GRE or GMAT, you have satisfied the GEAR at CSULB.
- Note: graduate students may either attempt the GPE writing placement test during their first semester at CSULB and follow one of the GEAR course pathways, or they may self-place directly into a low- or mid-range GEAR pathway in consultation with their graduate advisor. Students wanting to self-place into a GEAR portfolio course must do so in their first semester at CSULB. If they choose to take the GPE, then self-placement into a GEAR portfolio course is no longer an option. Students must follow the pathway where they place once they receive a GPE score.

Question:

Are you a Continuing or Transfer CSULB student needing to know when you should take the GEAR Placement Exam (GPE)?

Answer:

- If you are a Continuing CSULB student, you are required to take the GPE when you have earned between 30 and 50 units.
- If you are a Transfer student to CSULB, you are urged to take the GPE in the summer prior to your enrollment at CSULB. If you miss the summer GPE, you are then required to take the GPE in your first semester of enrollment.