

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

*Darlene Francis, Chair*  
*University Committee on Preparatory Education*  
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March 12, 2020

Executive Vice Chancellors  
Vice Provosts and Deans for Undergraduate Education  
Writing Program Administrators  
Committee on Preparatory Education  
Committees on Educational Policy/Undergraduate Councils

RE: ADMINISTRATION OF MAY 2020 ANALYTICAL WRITING PLACEMENT EXAM

Dear Colleagues,

Due to the current Coronavirus pandemic (and resulting uncertainties), the University of California will be unable to offer the Analytic Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) to incoming students in May 2020. The AWPE is currently used, system-wide, as a placement tool for students who have not satisfied the UC Entry-Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) by other means.

The implications of not administering the AWPE in spring 2020 will vary by campus. Our primary goal is to ensure that each campus has the flexibility required to accommodate their local placement needs. While the AWPE administration in spring 2020 will be suspended, the ELWR is not. The existing timeline to satisfy the ELWR will necessarily be relaxed for the incoming cohort of students. We ask that each campus convene the relevant stakeholders AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to develop a plan to address student placement into appropriate writing classes/programs. Potential options include: i) placing ALL students who have not satisfied ELWR by time of matriculation into the first of your designated writing courses; ii) local AWPE administration on your campus (summer or fall); iii) conferring with the Council of Writing Program Administrators to solicit input and share best practices.

The University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions ask that you provide UCOPE a brief written report (by May 29<sup>th</sup>) which: i) describes your campus plans to place students into writing classes and ii) demonstrates that all students will have sufficient opportunity to satisfy the ELWR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Francis".

Darlene Francis,  
Chair, University Committee on Preparatory Education

Cc: Senate Chair Kum-Kum Bhavnani  
Executive Vice President and Provost Michael Brown  
Interim Vice President Yvette Gullatt  
Executive Director Han Mi Yoon-Wu  
UCOPE Vice Chair Jeffrey Gagnon  
AWPE Committee Chair/Chief Reader Jonathan Lang  
Senate Executive Director Hilary Baxter