

UC San Diego

# University and Degree Requirements

---

UC San Diego, Thurgood Marshall College



Hi and welcome to the Thurgood Marshall College video tutorial on University and Degree Requirements. In this video we discuss the requirements that all UC San Diego students, regardless of college or major, must complete in order to graduate. Let's get started!

# University Requirements

- UC Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR)
- American History and Institutions (AHI)
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

In addition to major and college requirements, all students must complete three core University Requirements in order to receive their degree. These requirements include the UC Entry Level Writing Requirement, or ELWR; American History and Institutions, or AHI; and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, or DEI.

# UC Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR)

- Demonstrates proficiency in English composition
- Freshmen must complete ELWR by the end of the first year at UC San Diego
- Ways to satisfy the requirement:
  - ACT English Language Arts scores
  - SAT Writing scores
  - AP English Language or AP English Literature exams
  - IB HL English A: Language, Language & Literature, or Literature exams
  - UC-Transferable English composition course from accredited college or university (must be completed prior to matriculation)

<https://awp.ucsd.edu>

The first requirement, **ELWR**, requires students to demonstrate proficiency in English composition by the end of their first year at UC San Diego. This makes the ELWR the most time-sensitive requirement to complete. There are several ways that you can satisfy ELWR including,

- A 30 or better on the ACT English Language Arts (last administered June 2015);
- A 680 or better on the College Board SAT Reasoning Test, Writing (last administered January 2016);
- A 3 or above on either Advanced Placement (AP) Examination in English;
- A 6 or above on an International Baccalaureate Higher Level English A: Literature exam
- A 5 or above on International Baccalaureate Higher Level English A: Language and Literature exam;
- A 6 or above on an International Baccalaureate Standard Level English A: Language and Literature exam.

This requirement can also be met by earning a grade of “C” or higher in a UC-transferrable English composition course from an accredited college or university prior to enrollment at UC San Diego.

If you are a student who has transferred from another university or college, it is likely that you have already completed ELWR through your transfer coursework.

More information about ELWR can be found on the Analytical Writing Program Website at [awp.ucsd.edu](http://awp.ucsd.edu).

# Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE)

- Must take Placement Exam prior to Fall quarter
- <https://awp.ucsd.edu/placement/awpe>

If you do not meet any of the requirements that were described, you must take the Analytical Writing Placement Exam, also known as AWPE, prior to the start of Fall quarter at UC San Diego. For more information on what that exam is, when it is offered, how to sign up for it, and more, visit [awp.ucsd.edu/placement/awpe](https://awp.ucsd.edu/placement/awpe).

If you do not score high enough on the AWPE, you must take a basic writing course: either AWP 1 or AWP 2A and 2B.

# American History and Institutions (AHI)

- Demonstrate knowledge of American history and federal and state institutions
- Can overlap with major and/or college requirements
- Ways to satisfy the requirement:

## High School Coursework

- One high school unit in American History
- One-half high-school unit in American History and one-half high school unit in civics or American government
- SAT II score in American History
- AP US History or AP US Government

## College-Level Coursework

- UC-Transferable American History course from accredited college or university
- UCSD-approved coursework

<https://catalog.ucsd.edu>

The next requirement, **AHI**, requires students to demonstrate knowledge of American history and of the principles of American institutions under federal and state constitutions. You can satisfy AHI in several different ways including,

- A grade of “C” or better in one high-school unit in American history; one-half high-school unit in American history and one-half high-school unit in civics or American government;
- A score of 550 or more on the SAT II subject test score in American History;
- A score of 3 or higher on the Advanced Placement (AP) test in American history or US Government;
- A grade of “C” or better in one-quarter or one-semester course, in either American history or American government, at a recognized institution of higher education, community college included, either in California or in another state.

If you have not satisfied the AHI requirement through one of these approved methods, you may also complete one course from an approved list of AHI courses at UC San Diego. This list of courses and more information can be found on the UC San Diego Catalog at [catalog.ucsd.edu](https://catalog.ucsd.edu).

If you are an international student, please consult with Marshall Academic Advising in the Fall quarter to discuss how you may clear this requirement.

# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

- Demonstrate knowledge of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Can overlap with major and/or college requirements
- Ways to satisfy the requirement:
  - UCSD-approved coursework
  - UC-Transferable coursework from another institution that is UCSD-articulated

<https://undergrad.ucsd.edu>

The third requirement, **DEI**, requires students to demonstrate knowledge of diversity, equity, and inclusion. You can satisfy DEI through the following:

- UCSD-approved coursework; or
- UC-Transferable coursework from another institution that is UCSD-articulated

You can find more information about this requirement including a list of approved DEI courses on the Undergraduate Students website at [undergrad.ucsd.edu](https://undergrad.ucsd.edu)

# Degree Requirements for Graduation

- Complete a minimum of 180 units
  - 60 units must be upper-division (courses numbered 100 and above)
- Maintain a minimum of a 2.0 in both the major and cumulative GPA
- Complete a minimum of 12 units per quarter
- Complete a minimum of 36 units per year

In addition to the ELWR, AHI, and DEI requirements, you also have other specific degree requirements for graduation. You must complete a minimum of 180 units to qualify for graduation, 60 of which must be upper-division courses (courses numbered 100 and above). You must also maintain a minimum of a 2.0 in both your major and cumulative GPA, complete a minimum of 12 units per quarter, and complete a minimum of 36 units per academic year.

# Welcome to Thurgood Marshall College

Welcome

Orientation

Academics

Online Advising

Ask A Question

Enrollment

Ask A Question

We hope you have enjoyed this video tutorial on University and Degree requirements. If you have any questions about your first quarter courses or the specifics of the GE requirements, Marshall College Advising will be available during the Online Advising period after you have completed your entries on the New Student Site.