

**Master of Arts in Special Education Program
Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)
Administration and Remediation Procedure**

For all graduate-level students, CSUSM has a Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) policy that can be retrieved from the Office of Graduate Studies website, https://www.csusm.edu/policies/active/documents/graduate_writing_assessment_requirement.html. As part of the preparation for Advancement to Candidacy in the Master of Arts (MA) in Special Education program, candidates submit a Literature Review for assessment using the GWAR Rubric. The SPED Literature Review Template and GWAR rubric may be found at <https://www.csusm.edu/soe/graduate/specialeducation/gradresources.html>

The MA in Special Education requires each MA candidate to meet the GWAR before advancing to candidacy and enrolling in EDUC 698. The program provides each candidate up to three (3) opportunities to meet the GWAR. Guided by the MA in SPED Literature Review Template, each candidate composes and submits a Literature Review to his/her MA chair. Each candidate is provided two submission opportunities during the semester prior to enrollment in EDUC 698. If a candidate requires a third assessment opportunity, the candidate's chair and program coordinator work with the candidate to prepare for the third opportunity. The three opportunities are described below.

A candidate who does not pass the GWAR on the third attempt is terminated from the program.

GWAR Assessment Opportunity Timeline

GWAR Opportunity	GWAR Administration and Remediation Procedures
First GWAR Opportunity	Each candidate's Literature Review is due to the candidate's chair by or before week 11 of the semester in which the candidate is enrolled in EDUC 622. By week 13 of the same semester, the chair assesses the Literature Review using the GWAR Rubric. The chair then reports the candidate's GWAR score to the candidate, the program coordinator, and the Graduate Student Services (GSS) Coordinator. If a candidate does not pass the GWAR on the first attempt, the candidate revises and resubmits the Literature Review for a second assessment opportunity described below.
Second GWAR Opportunity	The candidate revises and resubmits the Literature Review by week 15 of the same semester. Prior to the resubmission, the chair may provide the candidate with written and/or verbal feedback to improve upon the element(s) of the GWAR rubric for which the candidate failed to receive a score of at least 3. The candidates' chair reads and assesses the revised version of the Literature Review using the GWAR Rubric by week 16 of the same semester. The candidate's chair then reports the candidate's GWAR score to the candidate, the program coordinator, and the GSS Coordinator. If a candidate does not pass the GWAR on the second attempt, the candidates revises and resubmits the Literature Review for a third and final assessment opportunity described below.
Third GWAR Opportunity	The candidate's chair in coordination with the program coordinator and appropriate support (e.g., CSUSM Writing Center) develops with the candidate a remediation plan designed to prepare the candidate for a third and final opportunity to pass the GWAR. The timeline for executing the plan allows the candidate to remediate, submit the Literature Review revisions, and receive final GWAR scores prior to enrollment in EDUC 698. The chair reports the candidate's GWAR final score to the candidate, the program coordinator, and the Graduate Student Services (GSS) Coordinator. If a candidate fails to pass the GWAR on the third attempt, the candidate is terminated from the program.