

## Graduate Communication Assessment Frequently Asked Questions

### *What is the Graduate Communication Assessment?*

The Graduate Communication Assessment (GCA) is a tool designed to measure written communication skills. Students will respond to a writing prompt, appropriate for graduate students, which will be evaluated in the following areas:

- Grammar and mechanics
- Style
- Organization and development

The GCA is taken online in a proctored setting. **It may only be taken one time and is not repeatable.** Any score disputes or requests for review/retake must be submitted in writing to [testingcenter@walshcollege.edu](mailto:testingcenter@walshcollege.edu) within 2 weeks of completion of the GCA in order for the request to be considered.

### *How long is the Graduate Communication Assessment?*

The GCA requires completion of one written essay of 1,000 words or less. The essay is timed and must be completed within 45 minutes.

### *Who needs to take the Graduate Communication Assessment?*

All graduate students enrolled in the MAB, MBA, MSF, MSITL, MSM, MSMKT and MBA dual degree programs are required to take the GCA.

### *I'm repeating COM 510 (COM 525 for MAB students), do I need to retake the Graduate Communication Assessment?*

If you scored a 1, 2 or 3 on the GCA the first time, you are encouraged to retake the assessment when retaking COM 510 (COM 525 for MAB students). Contact the Office of Outcomes Assessment at [assessmentoffice@walshcollege.edu](mailto:assessmentoffice@walshcollege.edu) or the Testing Center at [testingcenter@walshcollege.edu](mailto:testingcenter@walshcollege.edu) for more information and assistance.

### *Why do I need to take it?*

Written communication is an integral part of your graduate business education. The Graduate Communication Assessment is intended to provide information on your writing strengths and to help identify areas to improve your written communication.

### *Is there a fee to take the Graduate Communication Assessment?*

No. Students are not charged a fee to take the GCA.

### ***Where do I take the Graduate Communication Assessment?***

Students may take the GCA at the Troy or Novi Campus, or an approved external testing site.

**Troy Campus Testing Center:** Schedule a Troy GCA appointment online at [http://www-secure.walshcollege.edu/test\\_Scheduling/](http://www-secure.walshcollege.edu/test_Scheduling/) or call 248-823-1692.

**Novi Campus Library:** Call 248-349-5454 to schedule a Novi GCA appointment.

**Out-of-Area Students:** External proctors and locations must be pre-approved by Walsh. For more detailed information, see the “Walsh College Student Guidelines for Requesting a Non-Walsh Proctor” on the GCA page [www.walshcollege.edu/graduatecommunicationassessment](http://www.walshcollege.edu/graduatecommunicationassessment), or contact the Testing Center at [testingcenter@walshcollege.edu](mailto:testingcenter@walshcollege.edu) or 248-823-1692.

### ***When do I take the Graduate Communication Assessment?***

Students are eligible to complete the GCA once they have applied and been admitted to Walsh College, and it must be completed prior to their first class session of COM 510 (COM 525 for MAB students).

### ***Do I need to study before I take the Graduate Communication Assessment?***

You may study before you take the GCA to refresh your written communication skills. Assistance with writing skills may be found at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>.

### ***Will I receive a copy of my score?***

You will receive your score upon completion of the essay.

### ***Who will receive a copy of my score?***

Essay scores will be entered in your Wash College student record and sent to your COM 510 (COM 525 for MAB students) professor. Your score will remain confidential.

### ***What does my score mean?***

The Graduate Communication Assessment is scored on a scale of 1 through 6. A score of 4, 5, or 6 is considered acceptable. A score of 1 or 2 indicates a need for improvement and requires completion of additional exercises and weekly meetings with a tutor while enrolled in COM 510 (COM 525 for MAB students). A score of 3 requires completion of additional exercises, but does not require weekly meetings with a tutor.

For more information about the GCA, please contact the Office of Outcomes Assessment by e-mail at [assessment@walshcollege.edu](mailto:assessment@walshcollege.edu) or the Testing Center at [testingcenter@walshcollege.edu](mailto:testingcenter@walshcollege.edu).

If you have a documented disability and feel you need an accommodation for the Graduate Communication Assessment, you must contact the Admissions & Academic Advising Office at 248-823-1610 prior to your GCA appointment.