

## 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 exam is administered online and may be taken on any computer that has internet access. A student may also take the GCA at the Troy Testing Center. ***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 the [Testing Center](#) 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?***

As of Winter 2022, the following programs now require COM 510: MAC, MSF, MSITL, MSMKT, MBA/MSF, MBA/MSITL, MBA/MSM, MBA/MSMKT, AND MAC/MBA.

Please note: Undergraduate students who FastTrack into COM 510 are required to take the Graduate Communications Assessment (GCA).

### ***I'm repeating COM 510, 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. (Contact the Testing Center 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?***

The exam is administered online and may be taken on any computer that has internet access. If a student prefers, they may also take it at the Troy Testing Center.

**Troy Campus Testing Center:** Contact the [Testing Center](#) by email or call 248-823-1692 to make an in person appointment or receive online instructions. You can also view the online instructions on this website.

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

Students are eligible to complete the GCA once they have applied and been admitted to Walsh, and it must be completed prior to their first class session of COM 510

***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: [Writing Refresher](#)

***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 Walsh student record and sent to your COM 510 professor. Your score will otherwise 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, 2, or 3 indicates a need for improvement in one or more areas.

You will be asked to share certain parts of the electronic feedback on your GCA essay with your COM 510 instructor, who will then use that information to provide personalized, targeted feedback to you on specific writing or rhetorical issues throughout the course.

For more information about the GCA, please contact the [Testing Center](#).

***If you have a documented disability*** and feel you need an accommodation for the exam, you must contact Disability and Accessibility Support Services, [supportservices@walshcollege.edu](mailto:supportservices@walshcollege.edu) ***prior*** to taking the exam.