

Writing (W)

Courses being considered for the Writing (W) designation should be 300- or 400-level courses, build on student competency in academic writing skills, and aim to extend those skills, as appropriate, through the instruction of normal writing standards for their major discipline of study.

1. Is this a renewal of an existing core-designated course?
2. Course is taught and graded by instructors who have at least a Masters degree.
3. Instructor is willing and able to teach writing skills as needed to assist students in meeting the writing requirements of the course.
4. Class size is less than or equal to 35 students.
5. Multiple sections of the course taught by various instructors will include description of the kind and amount of writing that is both specific and consistent.
6. Course description include statement, verbatim: "Writing proficiency within the discipline is required for a passing grade in this course." This stipulation must be in the syllabus, in the course description, and in any other official descriptions of the course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student in this discipline will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.
7. Course syllabus indicates that written assignments require coherent, logical, and carefully edited prose. These assignments should require students to demonstrate higher-level critical thinking skills, such as analysis and synthesis.
8. Course syllabus indicates that at least two written, individual assignments are required; group writing assignments or group reports are not appropriate.
9. Course syllabus indicates that one of the written assignments will be graded and returned by mid-term.
10. Course syllabus must make all evaluation criteria for the writing assignments clear to students. Specific rubrics or scoring guides may be included with the syllabus, and must be included when assignments are first given.