

Information Regarding Writing Intensive Courses

General Description

To be designated as a “Writing Intensive” (WIN) course, a course must give writing a critical role in the course. Writing should play a central role in the learning process, and grades earned on written work should constitute a significant portion of the grade for the course. The course grade, in fact, should reflect to a great extent a student’s competence in mastering the expectations for competent written work in the discipline.

Specific Criteria

- The writing assignments in a WIN course must be significantly more “intense” than are the writing assignments in equivalent courses in the same discipline. Thus, a 3000-level English literature class may have a significant number of writing assignments, but it would not be a WIN course unless it required “significantly more ‘intense’” writing assignments (see #2 below) than do other 3000-level English literature courses.
- To have “significantly more ‘intense’” writing assignments generally means that the course requires more writing than do equivalent courses, but the quantity may not be significantly greater. The “intensity” could come also from having more demanding criteria for a successful paper. It could also come from requiring that students write multiple drafts of assignments. The “intensity” could also come from having evaluation criteria that is significantly more demanding. In general, the writing assignments for a WIN course should require higher orders of thinking and higher expectations for written expression than equivalent courses in the discipline, and they are clearly different from remedial and foundational skills.
- Fifty-percent (50%) or more of the course grade must be devoted to the evaluation of written work. This 50% may include stand-alone writing assignments, but it may also include essay questions on unit and final exams.
- Students in WIN courses receive appropriate feedback and response to their writing that is based on explicit criteria and is directed at improving the quality of their writing.
- Revision is built into the process of writing for ‘formal’ assignments, usually in terms of revisions of the same papers, or alternatively, in revisions accomplished through successive similar assignments.
- The writing assignments for a course should be appropriate to the discipline. Evaluation criteria should parallel the expectations for effective written expression for graduates working in fields in that discipline or a related discipline. Thus, a WIN course in the A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business (ARSSB) might expect and reward brevity and simplicity, while a WIN course in English might expect and reward greater elaboration and development of an individual style.
- WIN courses will be designated on the course schedule and on student transcripts.

- Entering freshmen for the fall of 2010 must complete 3 WIN courses in order to graduate. One of these 3 courses must be in the discipline in which the student is getting a degree. One may be at the 2000-level, but the other 2 must be at the 3000-4000-level. This requirement is a minimum requirement only.
- Freshmen students enrolled prior to fall 2010 may take WIN courses after completing 12 semester credit hours or with permission of the WIN course instructor.
- WIN course proposals must be approved by the department chair and the dean prior to being placed on the schedule.
- WIN courses have a cap of 30.