

Curriculum Committee Guidelines for the Writing Requirement

Catalog description of the Writing Requirement

Writing Requirement

Students fulfill the writing requirement by completing a foundation requirement and a requirement in the major.

Foundation requirement in expository writing: Students are required to complete successfully one designated expository writing course by the end of the sophomore year. Students placed in EN103 Writing Seminar I must complete this prerequisite course by the end of the first year. Designated writing courses offered by the English Department (EN105, 105H, or 110) and in various disciplines can be taken to fulfill the expository Center.

Writing requirement in the major: During the 2006-07 academic year, the Skidmore Faculty approved a proposal that enhances the writing requirement for any student in the Class of 2012 and beyond. This second component is to be determined by each department or program and will provide students with opportunities to learn and practice the particular conventions of writing within their discipline. Departments and programs will determine the exact nature of the requirement, which must be approved by the Curriculum Committee. The specifics will be outlined in the description of the major and communicated to students at the point when the major declaration is made.

Student learning goals

Foundation requirement in expository writing: The foundation component of the Writing Requirement, which students typically fulfill with either EN105 or a 100-level Writing Intensive (WI) course, is meant to immerse students in the process of writing informed by critical reading and careful reasoning. Special attention is given to developing ideas, writing from sources, organizing material, and revising drafts. Additional emphasis is on grammar, style, and formal conventions of writing. Students lacking adequate preparation or experience in expository writing will continue to be placed in EN 103: Writing Seminar I. EN 103 does not fulfill the foundation requirement.

Writing requirement in the major: The pedagogical rationale for a second component to the Writing Requirement determined by each department or program is to provide students with opportunities to learn and practice the particular conventions of writing within their discipline. Departments and programs are encouraged to consider the benefits of a requirement that uses a developmental approach that will enable students to improve their writing incrementally.

