

# Writing Proficiency Requirements

WSU faculty, administration, and regents have identified writing proficiency as a priority at WSU. Accordingly, all students will satisfy specified requirements to meet WSU's writing proficiency standards for graduation. The requirements are outlined below:

## 1. The WSU Writing Experience

- a. All students must satisfy the University Common Requirements by passing 6 credits of written and oral communication courses, including at least 3 in written communication.
- b. Prior to enrollment in first-year writing courses, students must participate in the WSU Writing Placement Process for the purpose of placement in appropriate writing and writing support courses. This process is mandatory for students who need to enroll in English 101 or its equivalent. The Writing Placement Process is administered during the summer and during the fall and spring terms. Placement results will fine-tune students' placement into an appropriate first-year writing course(s). In some instances, students may be exempted from ENGLISH 101 on the basis of their performance in the Placement Process or because of prior participation in a first-year composition course (e.g., through AP or similar programs). Students who are determined to be exempted from ENGLISH 101 will receive credit for the course and will be determined to have met the UCORE WRTG requirement. For more information, contact the Writing Program in Smith Center for Undergraduate Education (CUE) 305, or email [writing.program@wsu.edu](mailto:writing.program@wsu.edu), or visit <http://writingprogram.wsu.edu>.
- c. Honors College students need to work with the Honors College to determine placement into first-year composition courses. For more information, contact the Honors College 509-335-4505 or visit them at <http://honors.wsu.edu>.
- d. University Common Requirement (UCORE) courses require student writing of various kinds, both formal and informal, in order to provide adequate instruction in writing skills and to provide a wide range of student experiences in writing for many purposes and audiences.
- e. Transfer students who have completed an approved Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree at a Washington or Oregon community college are considered to have fulfilled the lower-division University Common Requirements. These students will still be responsible for meeting the other requirements for graduation, including those in the college and major departments. The University Writing Portfolio and the upper-division capstone course are not lower-division requirements and therefore cannot be satisfied by the approved associate degrees.

## 2. The University Writing Portfolio—Writing Assessment at Mid-Career

Successful completion of the University Writing Portfolio is a requirement for graduation at WSU. Students must satisfy this requirement once they have earned 60 credits or junior standing. The Writing Portfolio is a mid-career assessment of student progress and a diagnostic about student readiness for upper division writing challenges. Accordingly, the Portfolio must be completed before a student enrolls in Writing in the Major [M] courses. To complete the University Writing Portfolio, students must submit two papers they have written as a result of previously assigned college course work and reflect on their writing submissions in a Qualtrics survey. Visit <http://writingportfolio.wsu.edu> for more information.

## 3. Writing in the Major [M]

Two courses identified as writing in the major [M] must be included in course work taken to meet departmental requirements. Consult the requirements in the department in which you intend to major. Students should complete the University Writing Portfolio before enrolling in an [M] course.