

Written Communication Courses

Students develop their written communication skills at Westmont by taking at least two courses that emphasize writing fluently. Courses encourage students to develop their abilities to articulate information, ideas, and convictions. Students are expected to be able to communicate effectively to a wide range of audiences, within the academy, the church, and the public.

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- a) Writing for the Liberal Arts (4) All students should take a writing-intensive course during their first year at Westmont. Many students will fulfill this requirement by
- earning a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Language or AP Literature exam;
 - taking ENG-002: Composition for the Liberal Arts;
 - students with qualifying test scores (e.g., SAT EBRW score, some IB exams) may fulfill this requirement by taking ENG-104 or any other written communication course offered by any department.
- b) One other written communication course. This will typically be within the student's major.

Interpretive Statement

The guiding principle for GE Written Communication coursework is four interventions in the writing process; for example, students working on a history honors paper could submit four sections of their work during the semester. A variety of teaching methods can be used to meet this requirement: paper revision encourages students to intensify their development of a persuasive argument or critical analysis; response writing in class concentrates on content rather than form; journaling to explore ideas promotes critical thinking; summary writing is a necessary skill developing both content and form; essay examinations are evaluated on content as well as form, etc.

Certification Criteria

The syllabus explicitly identifies the course as a written communication course, and it clearly defines expectations for performance. Students are informed that their writing will be evaluated for rhetorical awareness (audience-centered appeals), rhetorical sensitivity and mobility (discipline-appropriate language use), content/message, form/organization (structure, transitions), clarity, and style (grammar/syntax/punctuation, artfully constructed sentences).

1. The course requires sufficient writing: at least four writing assignments totaling at least 4000 words. Writing is spread throughout the course in a sequence of related assignments rather than concentrated in a large paper at the end. These activities may include journal writing, article reviews, essays, research papers, scientific lab reports, business reports and plans, paper revision and editing assignments, revisions of sections within a term-length project, peer reviewing and editing, etc.
2. The course provides significant writing instruction or includes a substantive assignment in which students submit at least one draft for comments from the professor and then revise the draft to take account of these comments.

Student Learning Outcome

Students will demonstrate written communication that is informed by rhetorical situation, audience, genre, and purpose.