

Revised General Education W Course Requirements

Approved by Senate March 6, 20007

Revised Guidelines for W Courses:

- 1) Students practice forms of writing typical of the field. Writing assignments are designed to develop their content knowledge and enhance their communication skills.
- 2) Students are required to submit at least 2500 words of graded analytical/persuasive writing (about 10 standard double-spaced pages). Some examples of how this requirement might be met include:
 - (A) a research paper in which the student is required to define a problem, select, organize, and synthesize information around a stated thesis.
 - (B) short analytical essays that explore a topic with reasoned evidence and informed opinion.
 - (C) position papers prepared by students that address pros and cons of controversial topics.
 - (D) microthemes that ask the student to find academic sources, organize ideas, develop a thesis and show evidence, but condense the final paper to a single page or two.
- 3) Because W courses assume that writing is a process, students will be given opportunities to develop and revise papers through more than one draft. Assignments will be structured and sequenced in ways that help students improve their writing through practice and revision. Instructors' feedback on students' writing will contribute to effective revision and encourage students to develop effective self-assessment.
- 4) Writing intensive courses work best when they include a combination of informal and formal writing experiences for students. In addition to the 2500 words of revised graded analytical/persuasive writing, instructors are encouraged to assign expressive, reflective and/or observational writing tasks. The purpose of these assignments is to bring out the student's perceptions informally, and to increase writing practice.

Rationale:

- Provides clear purpose, intentional alignment and coherence to the General Education program.
- Restored rigor of writing and revision will add to students' intellectual experience.