

Certification Criteria for Writing-Intensive Courses

The syllabus explicitly identifies the course as writing-intensive, and it clearly defines expectations for performance. Students are informed that their work will be evaluated for clarity and style in addition to content.

1. The course requires sufficient writing: at least four papers totaling at least 16 pages. 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, lab abstracts, paper revision and editing assignments, peer reviewing and editing, etc.

Course Activities that Address It: News Story, Feature Story, Q&A Story, In-Class Writing Assignments: Inverted Pyramid Assignment, Event Coverage Assignment, Photojournalism Assignment, News Release Assignment, and Faith and Storytelling Assignment.

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. Rewrites are typically treated as 1/3 of the original.

Course Activities that Address It: Taken from the COM-087 syllabus: "Revising work is a key component of this course. Revisions of your stories are due no later than one week from when you receive edit notes on your original submission. You will submit a revision in order to improve your skills and potentially raise your grade. When revising the story, just resolve the comments/make the changes on the original document on Google Docs and then send the instructor an email to let him know that the new version of the story is ready." Students are evaluated on their ability to construct a clear central message (e.g., what the news story is about), the organization of their messages (e.g., use of writing structures), and the use of AP style and journalistic conventions.

Courses in the Writing-Intensive GE area must include the following student learning outcome (assessed as of Written Communication ILO):

- Students will communicate in written form for a variety of purposes and audiences across the curriculum.

Course Activities that Address It: News Story, Feature Story, Q&A Story, In-Class Writing Assignments: Inverted Pyramid Assignment, Event Coverage Assignment, Photojournalism Assignment, News Release Assignment, and Faith and Storytelling Assignment.