

The “W” Graduation Requirement

CETL Workshop

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What is it?

Writing at Minnesota State Mankato is a commitment to all undergraduate students that they are given ample opportunity to develop sound writing skills that enable them to succeed in their respective professions. Students will continue to develop skills taught in Composition, applying them in the context of a particular discipline.

Writing Intensive graduation requirement --

- Students pursuing a baccalaureate degree must take two (2) courses for a minimum of six (6) credits from the list of courses designated as writing intensive.
- One (1) writing intensive course for a minimum of three (3) credits satisfies the Writing Intensive requirement for the AA degree issued by Minnesota State Mankato.
- Transfer students who have taken thirty (30) or more credits or have already received an AA degree will be granted a minimum of three (3) Writing Intensive credits.

What is the goal?

Students will be able to:

- Engage in effective writing processes, including the ability to generate ideas, draft, revise, format, and edit their work.
- Use writing to grapple with course content and reflect on their learning.
- Produce texts appropriate for an intended audience, purpose, and context.
- Display strong technical skills in areas such as grammar, mechanics, and source documentation.

In addition to demonstrating these competencies, students enrolled in upper-division writing-intensive courses will be able to:

- Write in academic, professional, or public genres related to the discipline, displaying an understanding of the genres' communicative functions and contexts.
- Locate, evaluate, analyze, and use source material or data in their writing.

How does it work?

In keeping with the spirit of this commitment, all Minnesota State Mankato undergraduate students must satisfy the Writing Intensive graduation requirement for graduation. For purposes of further clarifying the Writing Intensive graduation requirement, 'writing intensive' is defined as:

- 20 pages (250 words per page) of evaluated written work, spread across a course

- 20 pages of writing assigned in a Writing Intensive course might include
 - a combination of informal,
 - Informal writing assignments allow students to grapple with course content and clarify their understanding and/or opinions of course material. This writing might include learning logs, response journals, lab notebooks, discussion boards and the like.
 - exploratory writing and
 - formal, polished writing.
 - Formal writing assignments require students to use writing as a means to communicate in more formal writing situations. Such assignments might ask students to write for real or imagined academic, professional, or public audiences and to write in genres/for communicative purposes appropriate to the discipline.

At least 10 of the 20 pages must receive written feedback from instructors. Faculty are encouraged to solicit a draft or other preliminary work, provide written feedback on this writing-- supplemented, whenever possible, with feedback from other students - and allow students time for revision and editing.

A portion of class time should be dedicated to writing instruction, and writing should play a significant role in the course grade.

What counts as a “W” course?

The Writing Intensive was made effective with the 2012-2013 academic year. Courses that met the University’s previous Writing Intensive requirement will automatically be included in the list of Writing Intensive courses that meet the new requirement for the 2012-2013 academic year. Departments will need to submit course proposals through the Curriculum Design System (CDS) to include any new courses in the new requirement. All course submissions for consideration as Writing Intensive will be reviewed in a manner consistent with all other curricular proposals.

An individual course may be considered Writing Intensive. Any 100-400 level undergraduate course that meets the relevant goals and outcomes may be included as a Writing Intensive course. No consideration will be given to proposals that limit participation to specific sections of a course. Only courses in their entirety, not specific sections of courses, are eligible for designation as Writing Intensive courses.

Courses without specific content (e.g., independent study, individual studies, directed readings, topics, internships, practicums, and field experience courses) will generally not be considered Writing Intensive courses. Exceptions may be made for specific cases if potential for achievement of the Writing Intensive outcomes can be clearly demonstrated prior to registration for the course in question.

All Writing Intensive courses will undergo systematic assessment as established by the university’s curricular committees. All departments and programs with Writing Intensive courses are expected to fully participate in the Writing Intensive assessment process.