

DRAFT Revised Catalog Language for New Criteria – Faculty Senate 10/9/08

English Writing Competency

The ability to write effectively is fundamental to success in academic, professional, and civic endeavors. Specifically, a student should be able to:

- Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts;
- Produce focused writing that is developed, logical, and organized;
- Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience, purpose, and context;
- Revise written documents based on constructive feedback;
- Develop competence in information literacy, information technology and digital literacy;
- Use discipline-specific style and citation conventions;
- Demonstrate appropriate English language usage.

Students should satisfy the following four requirements **in order**:

1. Composition course (ENEX 101, WTS 101, ENEX 200 or an equivalent);
2. One approved writing (W) course;
3. The Upper-Division Writing Proficiency Assessment (WPA), to be taken between 45-70 credits;
4. The upper-division writing requirement for the major.

Composition Course. All students must complete ENEX 101, WTS 101, ENEX 200, or an equivalent composition course with a grade of C-minus or better. Students with AP scores of 4 or better are exempted from this requirement.

Entering students are placed into WTS 100D, WTS or ENEX 101, or ENEX 200 based on their standardized test scores. Students placed into WTS 100D are provided an opportunity to challenge their placement with specific scores. Students placing into ENEX 200 may choose to take ENEX 101 instead.

One Writing Course. All students, unless exempted, must pass an approved writing course (chosen from the following list of approved courses) before attempting the WPA. Students are exempted from this requirement by transferring more than 27 semester credits at the time of their initial registration at the University.

Upper-Division Writing Proficiency Assessment (WPA). All students (including transfer students) who have completed the composition course requirement, the writing course requirement (unless exempted), and at least 45 semester credits must take the WPA. Students must pass the WPA in order to graduate. The Assessment is designed to ensure that the student is prepared for the writing required in upper-division major courses. Students are advised to satisfy the writing proficiency assessment **prior** to completing the upper-division writing requirement in their major.

Students should note the following:

- Students must take the assessment after 45 but no later than 70 credits.
- Transfer students may take the assessment concurrently with either their writing course or the writing requirement(s) in their major.

The WPA consists of a two-hour proctored examination written in response to a text released two weeks prior to the examination date. The assessment is offered six times annually. Information on the assessment and copies of the text are available at:

<http://umt.edu/writingcenter/upperdivisionwritingproficiencyexam.htm>

Upper-Division Writing Requirement. All students must meet the approved upper-division writing requirements specified in their majors. Students should seek specific information about the upper-division writing requirements in their major in the section of the catalog where information about their chosen major is given.

Students cannot use the same W course to meet both the approved writing course requirement and the upper-division writing requirement.

The following courses are designated as approved writing courses for 2009-2010. Students are cautioned that approved courses may change from year to year. To be used for General Education, a course must be listed as approved in the catalog and in the Class Schedule for the semester a student registers for it.

.....list of writing courses