

The Spiral Writing Curriculum: Advice for Students

York College has a "spiral" writing curriculum, in which students are required to take at least five courses that include not only significant amounts of writing, but also specific instruction in the writing process. In order to graduate, students who enter York as first-years, or transfer students who are required to complete York General Education requirements, must complete:

1. English 125: Introduction to College Writing

Taken as soon as possible in the first year.

2. First Lower-Level Writing Intensive Course

100 or 200 level. Taken as soon as possible after passing English 125, which is a prerequisite for all lower-level WI courses. Should be completed by the end of the sophomore year.

3. Second Lower-Level Writing Intensive Course

100 or 200 level. Taken as soon as possible after passing English 125, which is a prerequisite for all lower-level WI courses. Should be completed by the end of the sophomore year.

4. Writing 301, 302, or 303

Taken during the junior year (as soon as possible after reaching 60 credits). Transfer students who enter with the General Education requirements fulfilled should take it right away.

5. One Upper-Division Writing Intensive Course

300 level or above, within the major. All upper-division writing intensive courses carry Writing 301, 302, or 303 as a prerequisite.

Students should plan their academic program to ensure that they are taking courses in the order described, and that they will meet these requirements by graduation.

Students with questions about the writing curriculum should contact the English Department (AC-2A16, 718-262-2470) and speak to either Rebecca Ciceron or CadyAnn Parris-David.

Lower-Level Requirements

First Year Writing Requirement

ENG 125: Introduction to College Writing

(4 hours; 4 credits) Research, reading, and writing for college students.

Placement by entrance scores on the SAT or Regents or the CUNY/ACT reading/writing examinations.

This course lays the foundation in reading, critical thinking, and writing on which students can build in the subject-area courses. Students are introduced to a variety of readings and research resources and write short formal papers drawing on these sources. Emphasis is placed on clarity and coherence of ideas, accurate attribution of sources, and editing for correctness and professional presentation of work.

Two Lower-Level Writing Intensive (WI) Courses

The list of WI courses varies from semester to semester and is published on the Writing Across the Curriculum program website <<http://www.york.cuny.edu/wac>>. WI sections are also indicated in the Schedule of Classes. Note: some courses have both WI and non-WI sections. Check carefully before registering.

Prerequisite: ENG 125

These 100- or 200-level subject-area courses, building upon the foundational writing course English 125, practice and extend skills in reading, critical thinking, and writing by incorporating guided formal writing assignments. **Advisors and students must work together to plan schedules that include these first two WI courses, which should be completed by the end of the sophomore year.**

Completed WI courses are listed on each student's transcript, indicated by W or WI to the left of the grade, and Cardinal Check makes it easy for advisors and students to track progress towards completion of the WI graduation requirement.

Advisement Checklist

English 125

Semester: _____

Lower-Level Writing Intensive Course #1

Semester: _____

Lower-Level Writing Intensive Course #2

Semester: _____

Writing 301, 302, or 303

Semester: _____

Upper-Division Writing Intensive Course

Semester: _____

For questions about the writing curriculum:
English Department, AC-2A16, 718-262-2470
Rebecca Ciceron, rciceron@york.cuny.edu
CadyAnn Parris-David, cpdavid@york.cuny.edu

For questions about Writing Intensive courses:
Professor Jonathan Hall
Coordinator for Writing Across the Curriculum
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For questions about Writing 300 courses:
Professor Heather Robinson
Director of Writing/Writing 300 Coordinator
hrobinson@york.cuny.edu

Professor Cynthia Haller
English Department Deputy Chair
haller@york.cuny.edu

For questions about the Writing Center:
Professor Debbie Rowe
Writing Center Faculty Director
drowe@york.cuny.edu

Upper-Division Requirements

Upper-Division Writing Requirement

WRIT 301: Research and Writing for the Major

(4 hours; 3 credits) For students majoring in humanities and the social sciences.

WRIT 302: Research and Writing for the Sciences, Mathematics, and Technology

(4 hours; 3 credits) For students majoring in natural science, mathematics (not Computer Studies), medical technology, and environmental health science.

WRIT 303: Research and Writing for Professional Programs

(4 hours; 3 credits) For students majoring in business and professional programs.

Prerequisites: Junior status, ENG 125

Students are expected to take the course related to their major during the junior year, and should consult their advisor about which course would be appropriate.

Writing 300 courses are designed to lay the foundation for research and writing required within the major, for graduate studies, and in students' professional careers. The courses guide students in the acquisition of research skills that enable them to formulate a research question and to locate, evaluate, and document relevant sources, and of writing skills necessary to organize that information into a clearly written and appropriately documented paper. Students explore and evaluate library and online resources and write a research proposal, an annotated bibliography, and an individual research paper that explores a controversy related to their major discipline.

Students with special requests or needs should contact the English Department (AC-2A16, 718-262-2470) and speak to either Rebecca Ciceron or CadyAnn Parris-David.

One Upper-Division Writing Intensive (WI) Course

The list of WI courses varies from semester to semester and is published on the Writing Across the Curriculum program website <<http://www.york.cuny.edu/wac>>. WI sections are also indicated in the Schedule of Classes.

Note: some courses have both WI and non-WI sections. Check carefully before registering.

Prerequisite: WRIT 301, 302, or 303

This 300- or 400-level course is taken within the student's major, and builds upon the foundational writing course Writing 301, 302, or 303.

Students who entered the college as first-years between 2001 and 2003 have different WI requirements, and should consult with their advisors.

Information for Transfer Students and Students with Prior Degrees

Transfer students who have otherwise fulfilled York's General Education requirements, as well as students who enter York with an associate's degree, are subject to all upper-division writing requirements. Students who enter York with a previous baccalaureate degree are exempt from taking a Writing 300 course, but must take one upper-division WI course.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center is located in Room AC-1C18. Tutoring is available to students at any level on a scheduled or drop-in basis. Appointments can be scheduled by visiting the Writing Center in person with a valid York College ID. The Center also offers special workshops on finding and documenting research sources, creating paragraph coherence, and improving sentence structure.

Students are encouraged to visit the Center while they are working on papers, not just when they have received feedback that says they need specific help. All writers can benefit from talking through an assignment or response to work in progress.

Writing Requirements

York College, CUNY
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