ENGLISH COMPOSITION STRATEGIES

Also see the Undergraduate Advising Center's Tips for Getting Into Closed/Restricted Courses.

ELIGIBLE COURSES

Courses fulfilling the UW English composition requirement include:

- Comparative Literature: C LIT 240
- Educational Opportunity Program courses (for EOP students only): ENGL 109 + 110 (both courses must be completed in order to earn "C" credit)
- Expository Writing Program courses ENGL 111, 121, 131, 182, 281, 282, 381 or 382
- Interdisciplinary Writing Program courses ENGL 197, 198, 199, 297, 298, or 299
- University Honors Program courses (usually open to UW Honors students only): HONORS 205 or 345
- Transfer courses: any course designated on your UW transfer record as equivalent to one of the courses above.

NOTES:

AP and IB credit does not satisfy the UW's English Composition requirement, even if you are a transfer student and your prior school allowed you to count AP or IB as composition.

Exemptions: the English Department does not offer any placement testing or other processes by which students can be exempted from the requirement. Students who want to ask that the English Composition requirement be waived must petition the University: this is a UW requirement, not an English Department requirement. Work with your academic adviser in your own major to prepare and submit a graduation petition. (Approval for these petitions is exceptionally rare.)

These courses are not sequential: in other words, ENGL 131 is not a more advanced course than ENGL 111, and ENGL 199 is not more advanced than ENGL 131. While ENGL 297, 298, and 299 are called "Intermediate Writing," there is no pre-requisite — students do not need to take a 100-level writing course before enrolling in a 200-level writing link. Any student who enrolls in a lecture course is eligible to take its link, as space permits. Exceptions are ENGL 281 and ENGL 381: while there are no formal prerequisites for these courses, some writing background is assumed.

Students need to complete just one of these courses (5 credits) to satisfy the UW's English Composition requirement. The UW's second writing requirement, for Additional Writing ("W") (10 credits) can be filled with "W" writing-intensive courses offered across the entire UW curriculum. You do NOT need to take more than one course in English composition -- "W" courses are offered by other departments, from Anthropology to Zoology, and may be available in your intended major. To locate "W" courses, use the Time Schedule's General Education Search page.

Transfer courses are initially evaluated by the UW Admissions Office when you are accepted as a new transfer student. Admissions may assign a course you took elsewhere an equivalent UW course number, or may designate it as ENGL 1XX, 2XX, etc. They may or may not assign the "C" for English composition to your transfer course. If you transferred from a Washington State Community College, transfer courses have already been evaluated and equivalencies have been established. If you transferred from a four-year school, or an out-of-state school, and you feel that a course you took elsewhere should be designated as English composition ("C"), please contact English Advising. We will ask you to bring us a copy of your original transfer transcript and a syllabus or detailed course description so that we can evaluate your course and determine whether or not it can fulfill the UW's English composition requirement.
ENGL 111, 121, 131, 182: students may take no more than one course from this group. If you have already earned credit for one of these three courses with a grade of at least 2.0 (either at the UW or in your transfer record), the registration system will not allow you to sign up for a second one from this group.

STRATEGIES FOR NEW STUDENTS:
FRESHMEN INTEREST GROUPS (FIGS)
TRANSFER INTEREST GROUPS (TRIGS)
SUMMER QUARTER AND EARLY FALL START
INTERDISCIPLINARY WRITING PROGRAM COURSES

STRATEGIES FOR CONTINUING STUDENTS:
ENGL 111, 121, 131
CONSIDER INTERDISCIPLINARY WRITING PROGRAM COURSES
CONSIDER A MORE ADVANCED COURSE IF YOU HAVE A STRONG WRITING BACKGROUND
CONSIDER SUMMER QUARTER

DESPERATE?
OVERLOADS
OTHER OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE, BUT THEY HAVE DRAWBACKS....

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