



To: Graduate Admission or Registrar's Office

Re: Writing Competency

Beginning in fall 2015, all students matriculating to the College must complete a required writing course, WRIT 101-Foundations of Academic Discourse. The course introduces students to the fundamentals of college composition. Topics include the writing process, rhetorical strategies, basics of critical reading and thinking, and key forms of writing such as informative, evaluative, argumentative, and synthesis. The College also requires all students to complete a sequence of courses that provide instruction in information literacy, writing, and speaking.

Prior to fall 2015, writing intensive instruction was provided through two curriculum tracks which were designed to provide a general across-the-curriculum introduction plus additional major-specific instruction. First, a foundation is laid for all students through our general education curriculum. There, the initial three courses of the Civilization Series built students' generalized knowledge of resources and culminate with a full research paper.

Therefore the College did not require students to take specific English composition courses, instead preferring to integrate principles of composition within the subject matter of the Civilization Series. The previous curriculum design of this Humanities core (course prefix HUMA) included the content equivalent of six to nine (6-9) credit hours of English. These courses were:

HUMA 101	Civilization
HUMA 102	Civilization and the Biblical Revelation
HUMA 201	Civilization and the Speculative Mind
HUMA 202	Civilization and Literature
HUMA 301	Civilization and the Arts
HUMA 302	Modern Civilization in International Perspective

Building upon the general instruction received through the Civilization Series, each department provides discipline-specific instruction to its majors either within a single course or across several courses, concluding in a research paper and frequently an oral presentation.

If you have any questions, please contact the Registrar's Office at (724) 458-2172.

Sincerely,

John G. Inman
Registrar