

Motion Regarding Writing Across the Curriculum Criteria in Intellectual Foundations

Introduced by the Instruction & Research Committee at the May 2008 Senate

Whereas it has been determined there is much confusion and uncertainty regarding the requirements for approval, syllabus construction, and instruction of a Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) course,

Whereas the recent assessment of the WAC program revealed a campus-wide need for rearticulation and dissemination of information about program guidelines which have been in effect since their implementation in Fall 1987,

Motion 1A:

Be it resolved that the Senate revise the existing college guidelines (2007-2009 College Catalog pp. 27-28) for the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program as follows:

Writing Across the Curriculum Requirement

Writing represents a critical component of the educational process, and the integration of writing into all types of courses across the curriculum is widely encouraged. In particular, the college has established a 6-credit-hour Writing Across the Curriculum requirement for all students to enhance and reinforce basic writing skills learned in CWP 101 and CWP 102. Taking six-credits of Writing Across the Curriculum (W) courses or their major department's WAC alternative satisfies this requirement. Writing-to-learn techniques shall be utilized in all W courses and in alternative WAC implementation models.

For all (W) courses, and for courses taken together in alternate implementation models:

- (1) students must be given both formal and informal writing assignments,
- (2) students must be given constructive and prompt feedback on their writing and be required to respond to said feedback through rewriting and resubmission of significant writing assignments,
- (3) writing shall constitute a significant portion of coursework and evaluation, and
- (4) successful completion of CWP 102 or its equivalent shall be a prerequisite.

Every piece of formal writing submitted as part of the requirement should meet the following minimum standards, as appropriate to the course and the nature of the assignment:

- Clearly stated purpose/main idea/thesis
- Adequate support/proof/development of main idea
- Clear and logical organization of information
- Complete sentences including standard usage of grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Correct documentation (interior documentation, references, and/or bibliography) in a format appropriate to the field
- Evidence of critical thinking

The (W) courses must be completed at Buffalo State and are not transferable from other institutions. Some departments have established an alternate method, whereby their majors may satisfy the Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

Motion 1B:

Be it further resolved that the College Senate clarifies the existing departmental discretion to implement the Intellectual Foundations WAC writing requirement through an alternative method developed in collaboration with the College Writing program and approved by the Senate Intellectual Foundations Oversight Committee and IF Writing Oversight Committee (for example, the infusion-portfolio method).