

General Education Courses

Upper-Division Writing Component Courses (two courses)

Overview

Students must complete two Upper-Division Writing Component courses in, and as specified by, their major discipline of study. Upper-Division Writing Component courses emphasize professionally oriented writing within a particular discipline. The Upper-Division Writing Component gives students the opportunity to practice and demonstrate the skills of written communication as they are specifically applied to their major field of study. The Writing Component courses require at least 20 pages, or the equivalent thereof, of formal writing that has undergone significant revision based on peer or instructor feedback. The 20-page total may be attained through multiple assignments of varying page length.

Educational Goals:

Application and Synthesis

- To produce prose that is clear, coherent, correct and convincing for readers within the writer's major discipline of study; and
- To apply strategies for effective cross-cultural communication.

Synthesis and Evaluation

- To write papers that formulate original positions on a problem or issue *within the writer's major discipline of study* in the context of a synthesis of multiple primary and/or secondary sources;
- To assess the usefulness and reliability of potential print, electronic and primary research for a proposed research report *within the writer's major discipline of study*; and
- To plan, develop and write *discipline-appropriately-documented* academic and/or professional texts *within the writer's major discipline of study*.

NOTE: "Effective cross-cultural communication" here entails writers paying attention to how their texts might best be crafted for professional audiences (the usual case in discipline-specific writing) or general audiences (the occasional case).