

Writing Intensive Undergraduate Course Guidelines

Writing Intensive Courses are junior or senior level undergraduate courses of at least 3 credit hours.

Writing Intensive Course Goals

These are overarching principles to guide the design of a Writing Intensive Course at UMKC. If desired, some of these goals may be tailored as Student Learning Outcomes for individual courses. At the end of a Writing Intensive Course, students should be able to:

- Write in genres, participate in activities, and perform assignments that are appropriate to the respective discipline.
- Demonstrate their ability through writing to read closely and analyze critically the texts of their disciplines.
- Produce writing through the recursive process of brainstorming, research, drafting, peer review, and revising.
- Articulate and support a coherent thesis or purpose in their writing and develop it according to the conventions of a given discipline or audience.
- Use research methods and documentation that meet the standards of the discipline.
- Articulate and discuss their work with peers or the instructor.

Writing Intensive Course Requirements

The following are **mandatory minimum** course requirements for any Writing Intensive Course at UMKC:

- **Completion of the RooWriter as prerequisite.**
- **The course design emphasizes and teaches writing as a recursive process.**
The recursive process is defined as submission of one or more preliminary drafts for instructor response; peer response; revision of content, form, mechanics, and style, leading to a final draft.
- **Some class time is devoted to helping students complete writing assignments.**
This may include activities such as discussion of assignments and evaluation criteria; analysis and discussion of student writing; instruction about how to write in the discipline; or how to solve a common writing problem.
- **Writing assignments are distributed throughout the semester, and differ in length and purpose.**
- **The course requires 5,000-10,000 words (approximately 20-40 double-spaced pages) of revised, final-draft quality writing.**
- **Writing assignments account for at least 40 percent of the course grade.**

Writing Intensive Course Suggested Best Practices

Drawing on scholarship about Writing Intensive Courses, as well as experience at UMKC, the UWRB recommends that Writing Intensive Course instructors:

- Encourage students to pose relevant questions, conduct their own research, evaluate arguments, consider purpose and audience, and offer and receive constructive criticism.
- As part of the 5,000-10,000 words, require an essay or research paper of at least 2,000 words (approximately eight double-spaced pages).
- Use the range of resources available on campus, in particular referring students to the library and the Writing Studio, to receive assistance in the processes of conducting research, writing, and enhancing their information literacy.
- Use individual conferences or small group meetings to provide students with specific guidance about research and writing.
- Require students to save and submit all drafts of an assignment so that instructors can gauge their progress through the writing process.
- Include essay questions on examinations where appropriate.
- Include invention strategies, prewriting, analytical reading and re-reading, and reflective writing assignments.
- Use RooWriter student reports and instructor reports to gauge student readiness at the start of the course: <https://net3.umkc.edu/intapps/RooWriter/logon.aspx>
- Engage in conversations with other Writing Intensive Course instructors, attend FaCET events on the teaching of writing, and make use of resources on the UWRB web site: <http://www.umkc.edu/uwrb/>