

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE
College Specific Tier II Writing Criteria

The College of Natural Science issued the following Tier II guidelines to the Departments, Schools and Programs that offer undergraduate degrees.

To meet the university Tier II writing requirement, it is recommended that CNS units use at least one of the following paths, models, or approaches.

A. The Intensive Approach:

1. At least one intensive writing course for majors that meets all of the approved criteria for 'W' courses (Report of the Joint Committee on Writing Requirements, p.7).
2. A second course in the major that incorporates some writing.

B. The Sequential Approach:

1. A sequence of courses in the major which together meets all of the writing requirements.
2. The unit establishes an on-going oversight committee to review regularly and coordinate the writing components of the courses in the sequence.

C. The Exit Portfolio Approach:

1. A set of courses identified by the department, each of which involves some writing, with some number of combination to be required by the major.
2. Procedures established by which students will construct individually a writing portfolio of materials produced throughout their work in the major.
3. A one credit senior course established to review and revise selected materials from the student's portfolio and to determine whether the student's writing has satisfied the department's writing performance criteria.
4. An on-going oversight committee established to coordinate writing components in selected courses and to review, evaluate and revise the unit's portfolio system at regular intervals.

Explanation

Departments with minimal opportunities to incorporate writing components into existing major courses and with faculty who are interested in mounting writing intensive courses may find approach A most useful. Department's whose majors must take required sequences may find approach B more useful. In departments where a variety of major courses afford opportunities to incorporate writing components, approach C may be the most useful.

Implementation

To facilitate development of Tier II writing courses in the College that insure the outcomes as defined by the report of the Joint Committee on Writing Requirements (p7), the College shall develop mechanisms or tools such as faculty seminars, newsletters, computer bulletin boards, on-call expertise in writing instruction for CNS faculty, for disseminating information on methods for including writing in Tier II courses. Such programs will be developed and coordinated by the office of the Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs.

To whatever degree is reasonable, it is recommended that Departments allow LBS students to meet Tier II writing requirements through the LBS program.