

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
College Specific Tier II Writing Criteria¹

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

To accommodate the wide variety of undergraduate majors in the College of Social Science, the college guidelines for the Tier II writing courses have been broadly defined. Unit-specific criteria for the Tier II writing requirement will conform to the following college-level criteria for this requirement:

1. **SUBJECT MATTER** of assignments should be central, rather than peripheral, to the concerns of the field, thus ensuring majors will gain additional exposure to characteristic ideas, points-of-view, and problems, as well as the typical forms of scholarly communication associated with the discipline or academic field (e.g., case-studies, agency reports, monographic studies, journal articles, book reviews).
2. **FINAL STUDENT EVALUATION THROUGH GRADE DETERMINATION** in Tier II courses will explicitly take account of writing. All courses used to satisfy Tier II writing requirements in the college will be graded on a numerical basis; CR-NC enrollments are not approved for these courses.
3. **NUMBER, TYPE, AND LENGTH OF WRITING ASSIGNMENTS** in any given course are to be established by units and the faculty involved. Explicit information about these, and about the basis of grading the writing portion of the course, will be distributed and discussed by those teaching these courses during the initial meetings of each course. To assist in undergraduate program planning, general information about these issues will be made available in advance to students and their advisers through inclusion in student handbooks or similar advance announcements.
4. **SOME VARIETY IN WRITING EXPERIENCE** should be provided by the assignments in any course used to satisfy Tier II writing requirements. For example, a given course might include both one-paragraph in-class exercises as well as one or two short essay assignments. Although a single, lengthy, end-of-term assignment with no chance for revision would not be acceptable, a phased single assignment that moves from conception, proposal, brief bibliography, to revised final submission would be acceptable.
5. **EVALUATION OF THE WRITING** in one or more assignments must be provided at least once before the final grading for the course. The form that this evaluation takes is at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course; it need not take the form of extensive written marginal commentary; in-class evaluations or small group meetings are acceptable. (The purpose of courses used to satisfy Tier II writing requirements is to provide opportunities for expository writing; they are not intended to be “composition” courses.)
6. **MORE THAN ONE COURSE** that may be used to satisfy Tier II writing requirements must be provided by each unit with an undergraduate major to provide a minimum of program planning flexibility for the major and, in the case of the disciplinary departments, to accommodate duly enrolled Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science (IDS) majors.
7. **ONLY ONE COURSE** used to satisfy Tier II writing may be required of any major. A major student may enroll in more than one such course if that student is otherwise eligible and if the unit has not specifically precluded such enrollment.

¹ Approved by college-level governance groups during 1992-1993; revised to conform with UCC implementation instructions, Spring 1995.