

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

September 26, 1997

MEMORANDUM #AD/04/1997-98

TO: Deans, Associate Deans, Assistant Deans, Chairpersons, and Directors

FROM: Dr. Barbara C. Steidle, Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education  
and Academic Services

RE: Implementation of the University's Tier I Writing Requirement for Bachelor's  
Degrees\*

On January 8, 1991, the Academic Council approved the REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON WRITING REQUIREMENTS. The REPORT as approved by the Council is attached for your use.

The Office of the Provost developed the Writing Requirement statement for the Academic Programs section of the University catalog with review by the Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Writing Requirements. [For additional information, refer to that statement.]

Requests for new developmental writing courses, requests for new Tier I writing courses, and requests for new writing tutorials, and requests for changes in such courses, must be developed within the context of the information that is provided below.



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**PROVOST**

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To implement the University's Tier I writing requirement:

1. The Department of American Thought and Language was to develop a single, 4-credit developmental writing course that was to be required for some students on the basis of the results of the English placement test and that was to be identified as a Type I course under the remedial-developmental-preparatory course policy. "Designated score on English placement test" was to be a prerequisite for the developmental writing course.

In lieu of a single course, the Department of American Thought and Language developed one zero-credit course (ATL 0102) and one 3-credit 100-level course (ATL 1004), both of which were approved as Type II courses under the remedial-developmental-preparatory course policy. The prerequisites and corequisites for those courses were approved, taking into consideration the information provided in the preceding statement. [For additional information about ATL 0102 and ATL 1004, refer to the AMERICAN THOUGHT AND LANGUAGE listing in the Description Courses section of the University catalog.]

2. The Department of American Thought and Language was to develop a single, 4-credit Tier I writing course. At their discretion, the Department of English, James Madison College, and Lyman Briggs School each had the option of developing a 4-credit Tier I writing course that would be required for students who were enrolled in

that unit, in lieu of the 4-credit Tier I course writing course that was to be developed by the Department of American Thought and Language. "Designated score on English placement test or satisfactory completion of developmental writing course" was to be the prerequisite for the Tier I writing courses. Tier I writing courses were to be available only to those students who had not received credit in another Tier I writing course.

In lieu of a single 4-credit Tier I writing course, the Department of American Thought and Language developed several such courses that were approved. James Madison College developed two 3-credit Tier I writing courses that were approved. Lyman Briggs School developed one 4-credit Tier I writing course that was approved. In addition, the College of Arts and Letters developed two 4-credit Tier I writing courses that were approved. [Approved Tier I writing courses are identified in the Writing Requirement statement in the Academic Programs section of the University catalog.] Prerequisites and restrictions for the Tier I writing courses were approved, taking into consideration not only the information provided in the preceding statement but also the target student audiences for the courses. [For additional information about the Tier I writing courses, refer to the AMERICAN THOUGHT AND LANGUAGE, JAMES MADISON COLLEGE, LYMAN BRIGGS SCHOOL, and ARTS AND LETTERS listings in the Descriptions of Courses section of the University catalog.]

NOTE: Following University-level academic governance approval of a request for a new Tier I writing course, or a request to change the course subject code or number of an approved Tier I writing course, or a request to delete an approved Tier I writing course, the Office of the Provost will consult with the Assistant and Associate Deans of the Colleges that offer Tier I writing courses to ascertain whether any changes are needed in the "Not open to students with credit in ...." statements for those courses, in light of the approval of the request. The Office of the Provost will then update those statements in the Descriptions of Courses, if appropriate.

3. The Department of American Thought and Language was to develop a 2-credit writing tutorial that was to be required for those students who pass a Tier I writing course with a grade of 1.0 or 1.5 and that was to be taken concurrently with Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities (IAH) 201. "Grade of 1.0 or 1.5 in Tier I writing course" was to be a prerequisite for the writing tutorial. "IAH 201" was to be a corequisite for the writing tutorial.

In lieu of the Department of American Thought and Language developing a 2 -credit writing tutorial, the College of Arts and Letters developed a 2 -credit writing tutorial: AL 201. The prerequisite and restriction for AL 201 were approved, taking into consideration the information provided in the preceding statement. [For additional information about AL 201, refer to the ARTS AND LETTERS listing in the Descriptions of Courses section of the University catalog.]

Attachments:

1. REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON WRITING REQUIREMENTS as

approved by the Academic Council on January 8, 1991 (6 pages), attached to which is:

- A. Writing Across the Curriculum: A Selected Bibliography.

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\*IMPORTANT NOTE: This memorandum is being issued as an update of the portion of the memorandum to Deans, Associate Deans, Assistant Deans, Chairpersons, and Directors from Dr. James B. Hamilton, Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education, and Dr. Barbara C. Steidle, Assistant Provost for Academic Services, re Implementation of the University's Integrative Studies and Writing Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree dated April 4, 1991 (#A/33/90-91) (7 pages) and attachments that pertain to the Tier I writing requirement.

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