



If people cannot write well,
they cannot think well, and if they cannot
think well, others will do their thinking for them.

George Orwell

FOUNDATIONS: WRITING

by Dr. Leigh Graziano, First Year Writing Coordinator and Dr. Lars Soderlund, English Studies Department Head.

Our General Education framework requires two first-year writing courses: WR 121 and WR 122. These courses provide students with foundational and transferable knowledge about writing theory and practice that will prepare them for the varied writing tasks they'll be asked to complete in their time at WOU.

We get lots of transfer requests and petitions related to these courses, especially WR 122. These requests have to be weighed carefully due to the important role the course has in our General Education framework. The General Education Committee (GEC) does review and accept equivalent transfer courses in place of WR 122; however, for writing courses that have a different focus or approach, the GEC has affirmed that these courses may not be substituted for our foundational writing requirements. This practice is grounded in student-success, ensuring that students have prerequisite knowledge to help them write successfully within a diverse set of future coursework. Please encourage students to complete WR 121 and WR 122 in their first-year at WOU. If a student, in consultation with their advisor, believes they have developed writing proficiency from completing other writing coursework or experiences, they can contact Dr. Leigh Graziano, Director of First-Year Writing, to complete a challenge exam.

Information about the challenge exam can be found here:
wou.edu/english/first-year-writing/writing-challenge-exam

Thinking about using your Winter Break to propose a General Education course?

We have identified the
following as high need
requirements for students:

Foundations: Critical Thinking

Foundations: Health Promotion

**Integrating Knowledge:
Science, Technology and
Society**

Winter Term FYS
course descriptions
and details are
now available at
wou.edu/gened/fys

WRITING 121 & 122

WR 121 teaches students that their writing is situated within a variety of contexts—personal, professional, academic, and civic—and invites them to consider the identities and practices they adopt within those contexts.

Building on these concepts, **WR 122** delves further into the work of argument and research in different discourse communities. It is in **WR 122** that students cultivate a foundation in academic research, working with primary and secondary source material, and investigate how writing practices shift within different discourse communities; the latter of which helps students understand why our expectations as instructors are not all the same, and prepares them to develop more specialized writing practices appropriate to their major discipline.

UPDATES TO GENERAL EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

When the General Education Task Force developed the framework for General Education, they did so with the intention that the program would evolve as we learned more about the student experience in the program. As we closed our first year in which students completed General Education coursework, we identified areas for improvement. The General Education Committee explored and vetted recommendations to address emergent needs and we are pleased to share these curricular updates that have recently been approved by Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Provost.

FOUNDATIONS: HEALTH PROMOTION

We have reemphasized the focus of these courses will be on personal health promotion and disease prevention across the lifespan, integrated within the context of public health.

To ease transfer pathways, the course requirement has been updated to 3-4 credits.

Instead of highlighting an activity lab as the only means to encourage application of course content, courses in this area will require both integration and application of content to how college students can personally engage in health promoting behaviors.

INTEGRATING KNOWLEDGE

We have added Study Abroad to the roster of High Impact Practices identified for Integrating Knowledge. With this addition, comes the ability for students to use any 3-4 credit course elective completed as part of a Study Abroad Experience in fulfillment of the Integrating Knowledge: Citizenship, Social Responsibility, and Global Awareness requirement.

UPDATED HEALTH PROMOTION CONTENT CRITERIA

Courses in this category will explore environmental, contextual and/or social determinants of health along with genetic predispositions and heritable traits that impact health. In addition, courses must include at least two of the following, emphasizing connections between the selected topics relevant to one's own personal health:

- A. assessment of health behaviors;
- B. application of physical activity and physical health monitoring in promoting health and preventing disease;
- C. application of healthy nutritional practices in promoting health and preventing disease;
- D. application of stress management techniques in promoting health and preventing disease; and
- E. goal setting and programming for behavior change relative to physical activity, nutrition and/or positive mental health behaviors.
- F. changes in health needs across the lifespan

