

WRITING IN THE MAJOR: Guidance for Departments and Programs

The purpose of this document is to help departments and programs develop a plan for **Writing in the Major** as part of the new curriculum.

Defining Writing in the Major

Writing in the Major is a requirement to be fulfilled through the major. It complements the OLE Core but is not part of the OLE Core, as defined in the [Curriculum Committee Resolution 19/20-05](#).

OLE Core description of the Writing in the Major (1 course or its equivalent)

A single course or a set of modules distributed across two or more courses that provide writing instruction and practice relevant to a specific major and build upon knowledge and skills developed in the "First-Year Experience" (especially "Writing and Rhetoric") and "Writing Across the Curriculum." As appropriate, this requirement engages students in multimodal writing, including visual and oral communication. At a minimum, half of this requirement must be at the 300-level.

Planning and Proposing Writing in the Major

Because Writing in the Major is a vision of how students learn and practice writing as part of a major, departments/programs will develop a Writing in the Major using this [Department/Program Writing in the Major Plan](#). We encourage you to consult with Diane LeBlanc, Director of Writing, (leblanc@stolaf.edu) for guidance and resources.

How to Submit

Department chairs/program directors will upload plans through the Writing in the Major Plan in CourseLeaf. Departments planning to include a new course in Writing in the Major must also submit a New Course Proposal.

Plans will be reviewed by the Director of Writing and the Continuing Programs Subcommittee (CPS) and approved by the Curriculum Committee (CC). *NB: Writing in the Major plans will not go to the full faculty for approval.*

Timeline

The Writing in the Major proposal form will be available through CourseLeaf in spring 2021. Students enrolling with the new curriculum may register for 200- and 300-level Writing in the Major courses as early as Fall 2021 in some majors, depending on placement and department/program plan, but the majority will enter these courses in or after Spring 2022. Departments/programs that anticipate first-year or transfer students enrolling in Writing in the Major courses in Fall 2021 should submit plans by April 14, 2021. Otherwise, proposals will be due according to Curriculum Committee deadlines in Fall 2021 or Spring 2022.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. If a course satisfies one or two general education categories, can the course or module(s) in it also satisfy Writing in the Major?

Because Writing in the Major is separate from the OLE Core, courses that contribute to Writing in the Major also may satisfy Core requirements as defined by Policies and Procedures, [CC Resolution 19/20-05](#).

2. Do students pursuing more than one major need to complete Writing in the Major for each major?

Yes. Writing in the Major coursework should be integral to a major so that by completing the major, students complete Writing in the Major. In some cases, with small departments or interdisciplinary programs, students may complete Writing in the Major through a course outside of the major's department/program. In these cases, the participating departments/programs must mutually agree that particular courses satisfy Writing in the Major, as is the current practice with courses in one department/program that fulfill a major requirement in a different department/program. In rare cases, students may complete Writing in the Major in two majors with a single course because of the way the majors are configured.

3. If Writing in the Major is distributed among two or more courses, to which course do we attach the WIM credit?

Courses that contribute to Writing in the Major don't carry attributes like OLE Core courses. Departments/programs must identify them as Writing in Major courses, which will be verified through Degree Path.

4. Will a department/program resubmit Writing in the Major courses for re-approval when a faculty member teaches them for the first time, like current WRI and new WAC course approval?

No. Writing in the Major courses function like other courses that satisfy requirements in a major. Departments/programs will provide guidance for faculty teaching the course for the first time, and faculty are encouraged to attend workshops to develop as writing teachers.