

## Learning Outcomes, Course Requirements, and Best Practices for W-flag courses:

### **Writing Intensive Course Guidelines**

The purposes of the Writing Intensive classes at Clarion University are to help students learn to think and write in the discourses of their disciplines, to become familiar with how ideas are presented and interpreted in particular professions and fields of study, and to further develop the analytical reading, critical thinking, and communication skills that they need to be competent citizens and professionals. W-flagged courses will have the course prerequisite of ENGL 111 or its equivalent.

### **Writing Intensive Student Learning Outcomes**

At the end of a Writing Intensive Course at Clarion University, students will be able to:

1. Compose different types of text appropriate to the discipline. These forms of text may include in-class responses, journals, notebooks, reports, formal argumentative essays, and research papers.
2. Demonstrate their ability through writing to read closely and analyze critically the professional texts of their disciplines.
3. Produce writing through the processes of planning, research (primary or secondary), drafting, review, and revising.
4. Articulate and support a coherent focus or purpose in their writing and develop it according to the conventions of a given discipline or audience.
5. Use research methods and documentation that meet the standards of the discipline.

### **Writing Intensive Course Requirements**

To achieve the Writing Intensive Student Learning Outcomes, writing intensive courses will meet the following requirements:

- Instructors emphasize that writing relies on a recursive process that entails steps such as analytical reading and re-reading; prewriting; submission of preliminary drafts for instructor response; peer response; revision of content, form, mechanics, and style; and formal presentation of a final draft.
- Assignments encourage students to pose relevant questions, conduct their own research, evaluate arguments, consider purpose and audience, and offer and receive constructive criticism from peers or the instructor.
- Some class time is devoted to helping students complete writing assignments through activities such as discussion of assignments and evaluation criteria; analysis and discussion of sample student papers; and instruction about how to write a particular kind of paper or solve a common writing problem.
- Each course requires a variety of writing assigned throughout the semester that total at least 5,000 words or twenty pages of writing.

### **Writing Intensive Best Practices**

The English program's Writing Committee recommends the following best practices:

- Each course includes assignments that differ in length and purpose.

- Instructors use the range of resources available on campus, including referring students to the library and the Writing Center, where they can receive assistance in the processes of conducting research, writing, and enhancing their information literacy.
- Instructors provide students with specific guidance about research and writing through individual conferences or small group meetings.
- Students save and submit all drafts of an assignment so that instructors can gauge their progress through the writing process.
- For the purpose of assessment, instructors keep samples of student work (electronic or otherwise).
- Examinations include essay questions where appropriate.
- Instructors engage in conversations with other WI instructors.