

UCCS Compass Curriculum Frequently asked Questions about Writing Intensive Courses¹

What is a “Writing Intensive” Course?

Writing Intensive courses meet the following criteria:

- Assign writing of at least 3000 words (approximately 12 pages) over multiple assignments and/or multiple submissions (revisions) of specific assignments (both formal and informal). Note that word count accrues across multiple submissions of an assignment. Assignments can be revised multiple times, with each revision contributing to the total word count.
- Provide students with feedback about their writing, via instructor and/or peer review, and allow at least one opportunity to submit revisions based on feedback
- Assess writing assignments as a major portion of course grade (at least 25-30%)

How do Writing Intensive courses fit into the new Compass Curriculum?

- Students will be required to take 2 WI-designated courses beyond the two writing program courses (ENGL 1310 and ENGL 1410, ENGL 2080, ENGL 2090, or INOV 2100).
- One WI-designated course must be at the upper-division level.
- Writing Intensive courses may be integrated into courses within students' majors or other Compass Curriculum requirements.

How do I designate my course as Writing Intensive?

In order to designate your course as Writing Intensive, visit the Compass Curriculum portal on the UCCS Provost website (<http://www.uccs.edu/~provost/>). Follow the link to the Writing Intensive form, then provide brief responses to the 4 questions on the form. Copy and paste your course syllabus into the text box provided. Completing the form generally takes less than 15 minutes.

What resources are available to faculty who want to designate their courses as Writing Intensive?

Writing Fellows: Writing Intensive courses are eligible for instructional support via a Writing Fellow. Writing Fellows are advanced undergraduate or graduate students who have received special training to support students' composing, reviewing, and revising processes. They may conference with students, provide written feedback on students' drafts, help faculty compose and stage assignments, and give some classroom instruction around the writing process.

Writing Center: The Writing Center will continue to offer broad instructional support to students. Support from the Writing Center is highly accessible to students and includes extended evening hours during the week and availability on Saturdays. In addition, writing consultations are available via a variety of formats, including synchronous web as well as in-person sessions. The Writing Center also offers in-class workshops for instructors and students.

Faculty Support: Faculty interested in teaching WI courses may receive stipends for professional development via Writing across the Curriculum faculty seminars. These seminars support faculty as they work to design and scaffold meaningful writing assignments and provide students with useful feedback and assessment. In addition to offering these seminars, the Writing across the Curriculum director is also available to meet individually with faculty members who are working to revise or develop course materials.

Information Literacy Instruction: When appropriate, Library faculty will partner with teaching faculty to teach discipline-specific research strategies and concepts that help students identify, evaluate, locate, and use information effectively and ethically. Subject librarians also offer individual research consultations for students by appointment.

¹ **More questions?**

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