



St. Olaf College General Education Curriculum Writing in Context (WRI) Requirement

Description:

Four courses that enhance students' writing competence and confidence in a variety of knowledge domains. Courses may be taken in any field and at any level.

Intended learning outcomes:

Students will demonstrate:

1. the ability to write effectively in a form appropriate to a particular disciplinary or interdisciplinary course of study.
2. the ability to write as a means for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating.
3. the ability to engage in writing as a systematic, iterative process, using flexible strategies for generating drafts, responding to feedback, revising, editing, and proofreading.

Course guidelines with Curriculum Committee comments:

1. A Writing in Context course helps students write effective prose in a particular community of knowledge.

Comment: A Writing in Context course introduces students to the distinctive vocabulary, ways of knowing, writing conventions, etc. of the domain(s) of knowledge represented in the course. The context may be defined by a discipline, an interdisciplinary field of study, or a particular mode of inquiry. This is not to suggest that students should write only for academic audiences in these courses; they may write for one another, experts or professionals in related fields, practitioners, or lay persons with little knowledge of the discipline or subject matter of the course.

2. A Writing in Context course incorporates writing as a principal and integral part of learning.

Comment: The writing in WRI courses must be central to student learning in the course. It may be in languages other than English. The amount or kind of

writing in a Writing in Context course should serve student learning in the larger context of course content and goals; consequently, instructors themselves may determine the most appropriate writing for their courses. The writing might take one or more of many forms – a culminating paper, two or three briefer essays, book reviews, a mixture of formal and informal writing, and so forth. Whatever the quantity or genre, the writing should play an integral role in students' engagement with the subject of the course. It should be as much the active means through which learning takes place as it is the register of what has been learned.

3. A Writing in Context course must provide instruction in writing and must require students to revise their work in response to instructor feedback.

Comment: A Writing in Context course provides explicit instruction in writing. This may take place in a wide variety of forms: through short readings or handouts on effective writing; in individual or small group conferences with students; through class discussion of student writing or the quality of writing in assigned readings; or through lecture. Students must receive instructor feedback on their writing, either orally or in writing, and must be given the opportunity to respond to that feedback through revision of their work. Instructors wishing to offer Writing in Context courses are encouraged to participate in faculty development opportunities to improve their knowledge and practice as teachers of writing.

Information for faculty proposing WRI credit for a specific course:

The St. Olaf Curriculum Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving proposals to designate individual courses as meeting the Writing in Context requirement. Instructors may seek WRI credit as part of a proposal for a new course, or may seek to add WRI credit to an existing course. A proposal for WRI credit must show how the course meets each of the WRI course guidelines; the comments following a guideline provide additional information about how the Curriculum Committee interprets and applies that guideline in reviewing proposals. Instructors are encouraged to consider the comments as well as the guidelines in preparing proposals. Forms and additional instructions for submitting proposals electronically are available on the website of the [Office of the Registrar](#).

The process for submitting a proposal for WRI credit is the same as the process for submitting a proposal for any other GE credit; the only difference is that the Curriculum Committee confers with the Director of Writing in reviewing submitted proposals. Questions about preparing proposals should be addressed to the Director of Writing.