

Vince Willoughby
Chair, Writing Across the Curriculum Committee
4/25/2012

Motion from the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee:

It is moved that Fontbonne University require undergraduate students to take two (2) courses designated as Writing Intensive.

Writing Intensive courses will conform to the following guidelines:

- Maximum enrollment of 20 students
- At least 5,000 words (20 typed, double-spaced pages) total writing for the term
- Both formal and informal writing assignments to be assigned, but formal writing should represent over half of the total writing graded
- Instructors to assign multiple writing assignments of varied types appropriate to their discipline
- Students should be given the opportunity to revise and resubmit a finished writing assignment after receiving feedback from the instructor, preferably early in the term
- Writing assignments must represent at least 25% of the course grade
- Standards for Writing at Fontbonne University rubric to be consulted in evaluating written work

For Fall 2012, courses which have been provisionally designated as Writing Intensive for the purpose of student transfer articulation will be treated as such. Beginning Spring 2013, department chairs and program directors will submit all courses proposed for Writing Intensive classification to the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee, which will pass along approved courses to UCC.

The Writing Across the Curriculum Committee is committed to making Writing Intensive courses as successful as possible. Making them a point of pride for the university will require not only time and effort from faculty and staff, but material support, primarily from the office of Academic Affairs.

Rationale: Requiring Writing Intensive courses will benefit our students by fostering and empowering their intellectual identities and honing a skill set often crucial to obtaining rewarding employment. It will serve Fontbonne University's mission by offering "educational opportunities that reflect high standards, interdisciplinary thought and integrated understanding."

Additionally, in the context of an increasingly competitive educational environment, Writing Intensive courses can help Fontbonne University differentiate itself from other educational “content providers” by highlighting our capacity to offer personalized teaching and feedback.

Initially presented to the faculty as part of the new general education program, the guidelines above were presented by Vince Willoughby, Director of Composition and Chair of the Writing Across the Curriculum committee, at the Dean’s Forum on March 28, 2012. At that meeting faculty were encouraged to contact the committee to offer opinions and make suggestions. In response to concerns expressed about faculty workload and tailored instruction, the Writing Across the Curriculum committee has lowered the class size of Writing Intensive courses from 25 to 20 students. No other substantive changes have been made to the guidelines; they have been re-ordered and minor changes have been made to their wording. As a whole, the guidelines seek to ensure that our students are exposed to a range of important writing genres, made aware of the expectations connected with these genres, gain extensive practice in employing them, receive significant feedback on their efforts, and become skilled at revising their writing.

Proposed Date of Implementation: Fall 2012