

CUNY Writing Fellows

CUNY Writing Fellows are PhD candidates from the CUNY Graduate Center who are specially trained to help students with their writing. They offer workshops within and outside courses and meet one-on-one with students to follow up on workshops. For more information, see: <http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Writing/fellows.htm>

Writing Across the Curriculum Web Site

The WAC site contains a host of resources to help students with their writing, including handouts on various elements of writing and the process of writing and links to online guides for writing: <http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Writing/>

USEFUL LINKS:

Academic Advising Center @ QC

<http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Advising/>

Center for Teaching and Learning @ QC

<http://www.qc.cuny.edu/ctl/>

MFA in Creative Writing Graduate Program @ QC

http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Creative_Writing

Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) @ QC

<http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Writing>

Writing Center @ QC

One-on-one, online, drop-in tutoring support
<http://www.qc.cuny.edu/qcsw/>

Goals for Student Writing @ WAC

<http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Writing/Goals.htm>

Student Resources @ WAC

<http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Writing/stures.htm>

Student Handouts on Writing @ WAC

http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Writing/handouts_s.htm

Subject Writing Guides @ WAC

<http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Writing/subject.htm>

CUNY WriteSite

<http://writesite.cuny.edu/ieindex.html>



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Writing-Intensive Courses

A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS



Writing Across the Curriculum

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www.qc.cuny.edu/Writing/

WHAT IS A WRITING-INTENSIVE (W) COURSE?

Every student at Queens College must take English 110 (College Writing) and three additional writing-intensive courses—known as W courses.

A writing-intensive course typically uses writing to help students develop their understanding of course materials and concepts. W courses tend to be smaller than non-W courses, so that instructors can devote time and attention to the writing and writing process of individual students. W courses also give students a chance to practice writing in ways that are particular to specific disciplines.

There are as many types of W courses as there are fields of academic study—for example, English 140W (Introduction to Poetry), Mathematics 213W (Writing with *Mathematica*), Psychology 213W (Experimental Psychology), Media Studies 330W (The Music Industry), or Sociology 381W (Senior Seminar). You can expect some of the following from any W course you take:

- at least 10–15 pages of writing
- at least three writing assignments over the course of the semester
- attention to writing in class
- opportunity to revise your work
- attention to the writing process
- attention to the writing methods specific to the course or discipline

WHICH WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSES SHOULD YOU TAKE?

You should consider carefully which writing-intensive courses to take. Every student—and every writer—is different. As you make choices about the W (and non-W) courses you'll take, think about what you want or need to learn, what kinds of feedback you've received from teachers in the past, and what kinds of writing will help you most in your future profession and your life.

While there is no one-size-fits-all program of W courses, you should consider the following:

- It will be helpful if you take at least one W course in your major or minor (if offered) because this will introduce you to discipline-specific writing techniques that will serve you well in many of your courses.
- It's a good idea to take at least one upper-level (300-level) W course. This will give you the opportunity to explore the relationship between writing and advanced thinking in a particular field.
- Choose W courses whose topics interest you. W courses involve a great deal of concentrated writing and thinking. You're likely to learn more if you're invested in the course materials and topics.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE THREE W REQUIREMENTS?

W courses use writing to help students understand course materials and concepts *and* to gain experience and confidence in their writing.

In the spring of 2007 the Academic Senate established a set of "*Goals for Student Writing at Queens College*." These goals will help you understand what your professors want you to learn. No single course will emphasize all the areas emphasized in the goals, but the cumulative experience of your Queens College education is designed so that you will have opportunities to practice them all by the time you graduate.

Your professors have identified four key areas that can help you become an effective writer:

- Elements of Academic Writing (e.g., articulate a focused argument)
- Processes and Methods (e.g., develop ideas through techniques such as outlining and revising)
- Style, Conventions, and Mechanics (e.g., write in clear, controlled prose)
- Discipline- and Profession-Specific Techniques (e.g., use language appropriate to the discipline and audience)

It's a good idea to familiarize yourself with these goals and think about which areas you would benefit from working on most when you're deciding which courses to take. You can find the complete list of goals—and the rationale for them—in brochures available at the Academic Advising Center (Kiely 217) or the Writing Across the Curriculum/Center for Teaching and Learning office (Razran 316), or on the college's Web site (<http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Writing/Goals.htm>).

WHO CAN HELP WITH YOUR WRITING?

Your Instructors

If you have questions about your writing, talk to your instructors. They can help you determine which areas you should work on and offer strategies to help you improve. They may also direct you to other resources on campus—for example, the Writing Center, the CUNY Writing Fellows, or the Writing Across the Curriculum Web site.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center offers one-on-one tutoring in three forms: regular appointments over the course of the semester, drop-in appointments, and online tutoring. For more information, see: <http://www.qc.cuny.edu/qcsw/>