

Writing Intensive Courses

The following courses will offer Writing Intensive sections during the **SUMMER 2025** semester:

***The asterisk and bolded class** indicates that the course may also be offered without a Writing Intensive designation, so please make sure to choose a "W" section when registering if you wish to meet a Writing Intensive requirement

BUS 160W	DATA 212W	ENGL 157W*	ENGL 201W	MEDST 241W*	SEYS 201W
CMLIT 101W*	EECE 201W	ENGL 162W*	ENGL 210W	MEDST 342W*	SOC 381W*
CMLIT 102W*	EECE 310W	ENGL 165W	ENGL 211W	MEDST 343W*	WGS 101W*
CMLIT 215W*	ENGL 151W*	ENGL 170W	MEDST 201W	MEDST 345W*	
CMLIT 229W	ENGL 152W*	ENGL 200W	MEDST 223W	PSYCH 213W	

What is a "W" Course?

Courses are designated W ("Writing Intensive") by the Academic Senate on the recommendation of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC) and its Writing Intensive Subcommittee (WISC). To be considered for the W designation, a course must meet the following four criteria:

1. 10-15 pages of evaluated writing in three or more assignments (either separate papers or one term paper done in stages) so that students have the opportunity to develop and improve.
2. Some attention to writing in class in one or more of the following possible forms: discussion of papers before they are written and after they are returned; reading aloud of successful papers or models; discussion of the rhetorical strategies or writer qualities of course readings; the use of informal, ungraded writing to stimulate class discussion; peer editing: opportunities for students to give each other feedback on first drafts; discussion of goals for student writing and evaluation criteria.
3. Exams [if given] that include essay questions.
4. Maximum class-size of 30 students.

How will I recognize W courses?

1. Courses that have a number + a "W" (eg. AFST 234W = the Writing Intensive version of "Black Women Writers.")
2. Writing tutorials that are linked to content area courses; for example, 151 Great Works of English Literature co-linked with English 134W, which is a Writing Tutorial. Student would need to register for and take both together.

Why should I take W courses?

- W courses are required.
- In order to be eligible for graduation, all students must fulfill the College's writing requirement. To fulfill the writing requirement, all students who entered the college between **Fall 1997 and Spring 2013 semester must accrue 3 W units**, and **all matriculants as of Fall 2013 semester must accrue 2 W units**. Students may be able to transfer up to two "W" units from their previous institution/s; however, one (1) W unit must be completed in residency at Queens College for ALL students (freshmen and transfers) regardless of matriculation date.
- Writing about a subject area helps you learn.
- Writing forces you to think more deeply about a certain topic. When you write, you organize your ideas. And by writing not only do you articulate what you understand about the topic but you are also able to discover the gaps in your knowledge. Good writing skills help you succeed in any profession.
- Poor writing is among the most criticized skill gaps by employers.
- Whatever your career goal - accountant, technician, engineer, lawyer, police officer - you can be sure that it will involve writing. In fact, most employers ask for a writing sample as part of the interview process.

Believe it or not, writing can be fun! For many, writing is relaxing and entertaining. Honing your skills in a W course can advance your writing in many creative venues: email, journal, poetry, novels, memoir, personal web site, etc.