

## Entry-Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) at UC Davis

The University of California Senate [Regulation 636](#) requires that all undergraduate students be able to:

- 1) understand and respond adequately to written material typical of reading assignments in first-year courses and
- 2) produce writing that communicates effectively to University faculty.

### Interpretation:

The ELWR provides students with the opportunity for additional writing instruction to mitigate the structural inequalities that lead admitted UC Davis students to enter with different levels of academic writing preparedness. As the start of writing education at UC Davis, the ELWR is meant to guarantee that all students are provided with foundational writing education necessary in later disciplinary and professional writing situations at UC Davis.

All ELWR courses must be designed to support transferable academic reading and writing practices such as understanding how to respond to different kinds of academic reading and writing tasks. In order to improve students' abilities to understand how source texts are used, represented, and cited in academic writing, these courses should therefore provide guided practice in comprehending, contextualizing, analyzing, and responding to unfamiliar texts.

Individual assignments and the course as a whole should ask students to work closely with source texts to develop habits and techniques of academic inquiry. These habits should be developed through guided exercises in analytic summary and paraphrase, through which students identify main ideas, claims, and evidence, while learning and deploying revision strategies useful for creating and refining writing projects. Students should not only elicit and receive useful feedback from readers in the course, but should learn and practice strategies implementing that feedback through editing.

### Background of Entry Level Writing Course Approval Process:

In the academic year 2017-18 the Preparatory Education Committee (PEC), a subcommittee of Undergraduate Council, approved a Multiple Pathways proposal to satisfy the ELWR. The Multiple Pathways proposal includes the opportunity for departments currently offering courses to satisfy the Lower Division Writing Requirement (LDWR) to propose courses to satisfy the ELWR. PEC has the authority to determine whether these courses will satisfy the ELWR. (See [DDR 521 C. 2](#))

### Entry Level Writing Requirement Course Approval Process:

Departments intending to create an ELWR course must submit a new course request in the Integrated Curriculum Management System (ICMS). In the remarks section of the ICMS course request form, departments must state that they are requesting that the course be approved to fulfill the ELWR. As part of the normal course review process, the course proposal will be routed to the [Committee on Courses of Instruction](#) (COCI), and COCI will ask PEC to review the course form to ensure that the proposed course fulfills ELWR requirements. In order to maintain consistency across different modes of satisfying the ELWR, PEC has established a framework for consideration of such proposals. This framework was approved by the Undergraduate Council and will be used by PEC for all courses proposed to satisfy the ELWR. All final course approvals will be determined by COCI.

### Minimum Elements Checklist Used by PEC to Determine if a Course Qualifies as ELWR

Instructors submitting courses for certification as an ELWR fulfilling course must:

- 1) Demonstrate that transferable academic writing and reading practices are the most central components of the course.
- 2) Provide multiple strategies for student comprehension and contextualization of unfamiliar source texts.
- 3) Demonstrate scaffolded guidance for students as they practice academic writing processes including:
  - a) understanding writing tasks,
  - b) analyzing audience expectations,
  - c) understanding the rhetorical situations of a source text,
  - d) creating arguments with claims and evidence,
  - e) using evidence to support claims,
  - f) identifying and evaluating information,
  - g) drafting and draft development,
  - h) seeking useful feedback from readers,
  - i) implementing feedback and making revision decisions,
  - j) understanding how and why citation systems work.
- 4) Assign writing weekly in different forms (including informal and formal writing activities).
- 5) Require multiple drafts of all major writing assignments, emphasizing feedback and revision as a major component of the course.
- 6) Provide regular feedback to student work.
- 7) Provide detailed criteria for each writing assignment.
- 8) Demonstrate that students will produce approximately 5,000 words including at least one sustained writing project (~1000 words) and critical reflective writing that captures student awareness and use of writing practices.

The demonstration that these minimum elements will be met should be reflected throughout the ICMS request form; PEC anticipates that most of the information will be included in the Summary of Course Contents section of the ICMS form.

At UC Davis, new students who have not satisfied the ELWR prior to enrollment may take any of the following courses and earn a grade of C or higher to fulfill the ELWR:

- **WLD 57:** 4.5 workload unit course taught by Sacramento City College instructors
- **WR 39A:** 4 unit UC Online course – effective Fall 2016
- **UWP 7:** 4 unit UCD course – effective Winter 2019
- **UWP 7M:** 4 unit UCD course – effective Summer Session I 2019
- **A co-course:**
  - **UWP 1A:** 2 unit UCD course – effective Winter 2019 (Must be taken concurrently with UWP 1.)
  - **ENL 3A:** 2 unit UCD course - effective Winter 2019 (Must be taken concurrently with ENL 3.)
  - **NAS 5A:** 2 unit UCD course - effective Winter 2019 (Must be taken concurrently with NAS 5.)

For more information on the Entry Level Writing Requirement go to: <http://elw.ucdavis.edu/>