

# All About English Composition (C)

English Composition (C) courses strengthen writing skills through rhetorical strategy, thesis development, research, and revision, serving as a basis for college-level writing. **While C courses are only taught in the English language,** they encourage engagement with composition across multiple languages and contexts. Use this guide to learn more about Composition, course evaluations, and registration.

⚠ All [UW Schools and Colleges](#) require 5 credits of Composition.

making registration for these courses competitive. Click [here](#) for tips.

*Please note that Composition courses do not permit overloads.*

**WHAT IF A STUDENT TAKES MORE THAN 5 C CREDITS?** Students can apply Composition credits beyond the 5-credit minimum to the Additional Writing (W) requirement.

**WHAT DEPARTMENTS OFFER COMPOSITION COURSES?** Due to their focus on English writing conventions, most Composition courses are offered through the English department. Look for ENGL 109/110-182, ENGL 288; ENGL 289; and ENGL 296-299. *CMS 240 can also apply to the English Composition requirement.*

## Composition Course Learning Goals

For full information on Composition course learning goals, visit the [Writing Programs Webpage](#).

- Composing for a variety of audiences, purposes, and contexts by recognizing and experimenting with different rhetorical elements--- such as genre, content conventions, etc. --- to be able to effectively utilize and explain rhetorical choices
- Reading, analyzing, and synthesizing a range of texts to understand the rhetorical situation in which those texts are participating.
- Crafting research questions that explore and respond to complex ideas by finding patterns across primary and secondary sources.
- Writing original persuasive arguments that respond to different points of view while accounting for the arguments' consequences among ongoing conversations.
- Supporting a line of inquiry through engaging in analysis that respects the demands of genre, situation, audience, and purpose.
- Practicing composition as a recursive, collaborative process via feedback, rewriting, and editing.

## HOW ARE COMPOSITION AND WRITING COURSES DIFFERENT?

While writing is a major part of Composition and Additional Writing (W) courses, the way it is utilized within their curriculums results in two distinct requirements:

**Composition courses** focus on teaching English writing and rhetoric skills, with any other content being secondary.

Therefore, Composition classes

- Are taught in the English language,
- Are mainly offered in the English department,
- And can only fulfill the Composition or the Additional Writing requirement (if Composition credits are taken beyond the 5-credit minimum required for graduation).

**Writing courses** focus on teaching content within a specific discipline, which is reinforced through writing assignments.

Because they are disciplinary, W courses

- Can be taught in various languages,
- Are taught in various departments across UW,
- And often overlap with general education/Areas of Inquiry.

⚠️ [Click here](#) for more information on the Additional Writing requirement.

## HOW CAN COURSEWORK BE EVALUATED FOR C CREDIT?

Courses taken outside of UW can be evaluated for C credit using the process below.

- Students should send the course syllabus to an adviser, including:
  - Undergraduate Academic Affairs professional advisers (best for pre-majors).
  - Major/departmental advisers (best for students declared into a major).
- If the course fits the learning goals above, they may award the class with C credit.
- Humanities Academic Services advisers can provide additional review, if needed.

*Note: The Office of Admission requires for transfer courses granted with Composition credit to be taught in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, or New Zealand, as these countries' primary instructional language is English. Read more [here](#).*

Evaluated coursework must abide by the following policies:

- The number of credits earned must be aligned with the rule that 1 credit= 3 hours of work/week, as stated on the [Academic Credit webpage](#).
- All coursework must follow [UW's transfer credit policies](#).
- Courses with equivalents listed on the [Washington State Community College Equivalency Guide](#) must receive the equivalents listed.