

DO THE WRITE THING!

Welcome to the Writing Program at Saint Peter's University. You probably have a lot of questions...!

Q I sure do! I've been writing essays since junior high. So, why am I required to take a writing course now that I'm in university?

A A survey conducted by The American Management Association of 430 companies showed that job applicants lacked competent basic skills to do the jobs they seek. Further, it showed applicants lacked basic reading, writing, and math skills despite adequate resumes. Ultimately, the survey revealed 34% of job seekers to be deficient.

A university-level writing course will help you find the depth of your ideas, the logic of their defense, and the most effective mode of presentation. Even if you are already a good writer, your writing course will help make your work better. A university-level composition course helps improve skills you need not only for your course work, but also for your career.

Q What kind of skills?

A Skills include:

- Clear yet varied expression
- In-depth research methods
- Systematic analysis

All these things are used not only in other university courses, but in executive level careers people aspire to after graduation. Your composition course will help you refine these techniques so you can:

- Improve your communication skills
- Become a more sophisticated thinker
- Prepare for your future career

Q Sounds impressive -- but also scary! How can I ever possibly accomplish all that by myself?

A You're not expected to do it by yourself. Your university writing course is designed to be a writer's workshop where you enter into a partnership with your professor, who acts as editor, research guide, and writing mentor.

Q Doesn't the professor just assign essay topics based on things we've read and discussed in class and then correct the papers?

A Far from it! Your professor is a writing professional willing to share expertise in the written word with students. While you undoubtedly will be assigned essay topics based on reading and discussion, your professor will also:

- explain various types of writing
- demonstrate how to create more effective essay components, such as opening and closing paragraphs
- explore nuance in language
- conduct exercises in brainstorming and style development

- guide you in your research and the shaping of your own ideas
- teach you the art and craft of true revision
- edit your work thoroughly
- conduct regular one to one conferences with you
- grade you fairly on the work you produce

Q **Wow! That's a lot more than I thought! So, what will I be expected to do in this partnership?**

A Obviously, a writing course requires you to write, but to develop steadily in the art and craft of persuasive writing, you will be required to:

- write several comprehensive essays throughout the semester
- follow editing suggestions for true revision when re-writing
- attend conferences and C.A.S.E. sessions (if scheduled)
- come to each class prepared with course materials plus work due that day
- meet all deadlines for both writing and reading assignments
- participate in class discussion by asking questions and offering considered opinions
- participate in group work
- do all exercises in brainstorming, peer editing, and mechanics
- conduct research
- pass the course by completing assigned work satisfactorily and by passing the departmental Proficiency Exam given to all developmental and Part I Composition students

Q **Well, I'll certainly be busy. How will I be assigned to my writing course?**

A Saint Peter's University as an institution prides itself on the tradition of *cura personalis* (personal care), and the Writing Program is no different. You will be assigned to a class section best suited to your skill level as evidenced by your placement test essay. Although some composition courses run only for a single semester (Honors level and a special section for Nursing majors), most writing courses run for two semesters, covering argument, structure, mechanics, and research. Be assured that every effort is made to place you in a section that will help you grow as a writer and a thinker. Class size is small enough (20 or under) to ensure that the needs of each student are met.

Q **Okay! Sounds good to me, but if I have any more questions about the Writing Program, where do I go?**

A Once the semester starts, your professor will be happy to answer most questions, and we encourage you to speak with your particular instructor often. However, please note that the Writing Program at Saint Peter's University maintains an open door policy year-round. Feel free to visit us at the English Department located on the 3rd floor of Loyola Hall. The Director of the Writing Program is Prof. Constance Wagner (cwagner@saintpeters.edu).

The Writing Program also maintains close associations with several other programs on campus. If your Composition course designation ends in one of the following letter combinations (E, EA, ED, HP, or NU), you will find you are closely associated with them as well! Here are the explanations and links to more info for each:

- A course designation ending in “E” (ex., 104.E1) is connected with the EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund) Program:

<https://www.saintpeters.edu/academics/programs-services/eof/>

Contact Anne Rosario, Director – arosario@saintpeters.edu

- A course ending in “EA” (ex., CM 104EA 02) is connected with CELAC (Center for English Language Acquisition and Culture):

<https://www.saintpeters.edu/celac/>

Contact Alicia D'Amato, Director -- adamato@saintpeters.edu

- A course ending in “ED” (ex., CM 104. ED3) is connected with the School of Education:

<https://www.saintpeters.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/education/>

Contact Anna Cicirelli, Associate Dean – acicirelli@saintpeters.edu

- A course ending in “NU” (ex., CM 120.NU1) is connected with the School of Nursing:

<https://www.saintpeters.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/nursing/>

Contact Lisa Garsman, Director – lgarsman@saintpters.edu

- A course ending in “HP” (ex., CM 120.HP2) is connected with the Honors Program:

<https://www.saintpeters.edu/academics/programs-services/honors-program/>

Contact Dr. Daniel Murphy, Director – dmurphy2@saintpeters.edu

Q Wow! That’s a lot! Is there anyone or anything else I should know about?

A Absolutely! We have lots of help available and people willing to do it.

- For tutoring help, you should visit:

C.A..S.E. (Center for Academic Success and Engagement):

<https://www.saintpeters.edu/case/tutoring-services/>

Contact Barbara Melchione, Director – bmelchione@saintpeters.edu

- If you are a student athlete, please note that the Academic / Athletic Coordinator works closely with all Writing Program Instructors:

http://www.saintpeterspeacocks.com/Athletics_and_Academics/Athletics_and_Academics

Contact Paige Vicari, Academic/Athletic Coordinator – pvicari@saintpeters.edu

- If you have questions about your placement test, you may contact the Writing Program Director (cwagner@saintpeters.edu) or contact the staff at CASE (case@saintpeters.edu).

General information about placement testing can be found here:

<https://www.saintpeters.edu/case/placement-testing/>

- For information about special accommodation for exams and classwork, contact the staff at CASE by emailing case@saintpters.edu or accomodations@saintpters.edu .
- Links to the PDFs to request accommodation can also be found by visiting here:

<https://www.saintpeters.edu/academics/programs-services/disability-services/>

Contact Nicole DeCapua Rinck, Ed.D. --
University Disability Services Coordinator & Dean of Academic Engagement & Student
Success -- ndecapuarinck@saintpters.edu

Q You've given me a lot to think about! Thanks! Any final words?

A Happy to help! We're glad to have you as part of the Writing Program family at Saint Peter's University.

And remember: we're all here to help you *do the WRITE thing!*
