

Appendix 2

Policy on Writing Instruction at Hope College

An important goal of a Hope College education is to ensure that all graduates be able to write effectively in many contexts, including their major discipline. To this end, writing instruction shall take place both in the General Education curriculum and in each major.

Improvement of writing will be an explicit focus within the General Education program in English 113, Cultural Heritage I & II, Natural Science II, Foreign Language II, and Religion 200

As the crucial and foundational writing course at Hope College, English 113 should have an enrollment cap of no more than 20 students. As the designated post-English 113 courses that include writing instruction, Cultural Heritage I & II, which will have enrollment caps of no more than 25 students, will meet the following criteria:

- The course will involve writing multiple drafts.
- The course instructor will explicitly discuss the features of strong writing, and provide feedback on the quality of student writing.
- Each course will involve a designated minimum amount of writing to be determined by appropriate academic divisions in consultation with departments.
- Papers in final form will be graded on not only content but also quality of writing.

Courses in Natural Science II, Foreign Language II, and Religion 200 will be designated as writing intensive courses, which are characterized by the following:

- Explicit expectations for effective writing.
- Regular feedback that addresses the quality of student writing.
- Grading that in part reflects explicit assessment of the quality of student writing

All majors will include instruction in effective writing in their respective discipline. Each Department will determine how this requirement is met in accordance with the following guidelines:

Writing instruction must take place in one or more designated courses.

The same criteria for General Education courses will be used except where effective discipline-specific writing necessitates a different approach.

Each Department will determine the minimum amount of writing for writing courses.

There will be annual assessment of whether students are achieving each major's stated writing outcomes.

The Department Chair will submit the Department's writing requirement for the major to the respective divisional Dean by January 25, 2014.