

Greetings from the Dickinson College Writing Program!

At Dickinson College, writing is considered a central component of your liberal-arts education. Dickinson faculty members value writing because it helps students solidify their learning, deepen their critical thinking skills and practice the language and conventions of their disciplines. At every level and in every major, students are expected to do extensive writing, including during the First-Year Seminar, in Writing in the Discipline courses, and in senior capstones.

The Writing Program provides resources at all levels to support students in their writing. We recognize that Dickinson students come with a diverse range of experiences as writers, and with varying levels of expertise and confidence in US academic writing. We want to make sure that all students, including international students, are able to make an informed decision about appropriate Writing Program courses to take, especially in one's first semester. The checklist below is meant to help you assess whether you will benefit from enrolling in a Writing Program course in your first year at Dickinson.

Please take a moment to answer YES or NO to the following questions and read the self-directed placement recommendations when you have finished. Please respond honestly; your responses will help you get an appropriate recommendation to get the kind of support that will help you be successful at Dickinson.

___ I have written at least one academic essay in English in the last year.

___ I have written more than one academic paper in English that was 3-5 pages or longer.

___ I can explain how expectations for high school writing and college writing are different.

___ I have read texts (e.g. newspaper articles, websites, novels, short stories, etc.) in English at least once a week for the last six months.

___ I have read several longer (100+ pages) texts in English.

___ I know the difference between summarizing and analyzing.

___ I have analyzed complex academic texts in English.

___ I have written thesis-driven papers.

___ I can explain how plagiarism is defined in US academic writing.

___ I have written papers that incorporate outside sources, and I know how to integrate source material into an essay without plagiarizing.

___ I employ a writing process that incorporates pre-writing, drafting, revising, and editing.

___ When writing in English, I have no or few errors in grammar or word choice that interfere with a reader's ability to understand what I mean.

Did you answer YES to 11 or more of these questions?

Based on your responses, you are welcome to enroll in either WRPG 101 (fall) or WRPG 102 (spring or summer). A student like yourself, who enters college with extensive experience in academic writing, can continue developing as a writer. WRPG 101 is specifically designed for international and multilingual students at Dickinson, while WRPG 102 is open to all Dickinson students regardless of language background. Both courses fulfill graduation requirements (US Diversity or Sustainability Investigations). You are also welcome to work with English writing tutors in the Eberly Multilingual Writing Center, located on the Main Floor of the Waidner-Spahr Library. The writing center provides trained peer tutors to assist all Dickinson students, at every level and ability with any stage of the writing process. Approximately half of all Dickinson students took advantage of the opportunity to work with a peer writing tutor in the last academic year.

Did you answer YES to 8-10 of these questions?

Based on your responses, you are *recommended* to enroll in WRPG 101 (fall) or WRPG 102 (spring or summer). There are some areas of US academic writing that you may be less familiar with, and either of these courses will help you grow in important ways as a writer. WRPG 101 is specifically designed for international and multilingual students at Dickinson, while WRPG 102 is open to all Dickinson students regardless of language background. Both courses fulfill graduation requirements (US Diversity or Sustainability Investigations).

You are also welcome to work with English writing tutors in the Eberly Multilingual Writing Center, located on the Main Floor of the Waidner-Spahr Library. The writing center provides trained peer tutors to assist all Dickinson students, at every level and ability with any stage of the writing process. Approximately half of all Dickinson students took advantage of the opportunity to work with a peer writing tutor in the last academic year.

Did you answer YES to 7 or fewer of these questions?

Based on your responses, you are *strongly recommended* to enroll in WRPG 101 this fall. This course will offer you support in the areas of US academic writing where you have less experience or familiarity. WRPG 101 is a full-credit course and fulfill the US Diversity graduation requirement. The course will also provide you with a strong foundation for the writing you will be expected to do throughout your time in Dickinson, including your First-year Seminar and Writing in the Discipline classes. You can consider continuing with WRPG 102 in the spring semester.

You are also strongly recommended to work with English writing tutors in the Eberly Multilingual Writing Center, located on the Main Floor of the Waidner-Spahr Library. The writing center provides trained peer tutors to assist all Dickinson students, at every level and ability with any stage of the writing process. Approximately half of all Dickinson students took advantage of the opportunity to work with a peer writing tutor in the last academic year.