

**University Writing Committee  
Annual Report  
2020-2021**

In the 2020-2021 academic year, the University Writing Committee made progress on several items, reviewing and approving Writing Proficiency (WP) courses, exploring options to improve support for faculty teaching WP courses, and working on a GWAR policy revision proposal. In brief, here is what we accomplished this academic year:

1. The chancellor's office permanently ended the Writing Proficiency Screening Test (WPST) in March 2020. After consultation with UEPC, we agreed upon and communicated to students a policy of prerequisites to WP course enrollment, on an interim basis. This policy is ongoing. We will continue to monitor events and progress, discuss developments, and advocate for faculty based on their input and concerns.

The ending of the WPST necessitated a series of discussions of how to ensure the best success for students before they take a WP course as part of fulfilling the GWAR. A working group of the Committee prepared a portfolio requirement for students to complete and receive approval on before enrollment in a WP course, based on best available practices and after reviewing policies of other CSU campuses. The Committee has approved this option, but discussions with other stakeholders is ongoing. On the basis of this portfolio requirement, the Committee has drafted an initial revised GWAR policy.

2. We completed approval of two new/modified WP courses:  
GEOG 4800: Survey of Geographic Thought and Literature.  
NURS 3330: Nursing Leadership and Management.
3. We have been working on reviews of seven WP courses with twenty-four total sections. Each instructor's sections of a course are reviewed, in order to review the assignments and materials used by each instructor. This year, the Committee used a new submission process using Canvas. Our thanks to those instructors who submitted complete materials in a timely fashion, as this facilitates our timely review.

LIBS 3200: 6 sections approved.  
CJ 3170: 2 sections approved.  
ENGL 3150: 1 section approved.  
BUSI 3100: 2 sections approved.  
PSCI 4230: 1 section approved.

LIBS 3200: 2 sections awaiting materials.  
CJ 3170: 2 sections awaiting materials.  
ENGL 3150: 1 section awaiting materials.  
BUSI 3100: 3 sections in progress; 2 sections awaiting materials.  
MUSI 3370: 1 section in progress.  
PHIL 3500: 1 section in progress.

It should be noted that the Committee allowed a grace period for submission of review materials from Spring 2020 semester courses, due to COVID-19 concerns and the general switch to remote instruction.

4. As in every review cycle, the University Writing Committee struggles with receiving materials from every faculty member who receives our request. Most faculty gladly comply with the review procedure, but a few either take a long time to send in materials or simply ignore the request. The Committee has continued to discuss ways to cajole and require our colleagues in order to fulfill our mandate of reviewing all WP courses, including through the use of courteous memos. We have updated our internal procedures for WP course review.

Although the Committee asserts its capacity to remove the WP status of courses that are not approved or for which no materials were received, a full statement of this authority will be included in the forthcoming GVAR policy revision.

5. We have discussed, and continue to discuss, ways to support faculty in teaching writing and teaching WP courses, and met with administration on our proposals. The ability to implement these ideas is contingent on funding and availability of faculty to offer workshops and create on-line resources. Furthermore, the UWC has prepared faculty surveys.
6. We responded to several student petitions regarding GVAR requirements.

It has been a very busy year. My thanks to all of the committee members for their thoughtful work. The 2020-2021 University Writing Committee members are:

Brett Ashmun, COEKSW  
Tim Firch, CBA  
Brian Psiropoulos, CAHSS  
Koni Stone, COS  
Paul Strauss, CAHSS  
Christopher Turner, At-Large  
John Wittman, Writing Program Coordinator, English  
Rachel Grimshaw, GVAR Coordinator, ex-officio

Lastly, thank you to Whitney Placido for her administrative support. UWC has a large amount of materials to process and track, because of the nature of WP course review. Without Ms. Placido's help, it would be nearly impossible for the committee to do our work.

Paul Strauss, Chair  
University Writing Committee  
May 3, 2021