

## ***Structural Parameters for the Major Writing Requirement***

Each major should designate the course(s) in which its students will fulfill the Major Writing Requirement.

1. The course(s) will not, as a matter of policy, be listed with a "W."
2. If a department chooses to list the course(s) which fulfill(s) its Major Writing Requirement with a "W", it should do so with the knowledge that the course(s) will then be open to (qualified) non-majors to fulfill the "W" writing requirement.
3. Since these courses will not appear with a W demarcation, it is the responsibility of the department to see that the Major Writing Requirement is fulfilled (just as it is the department's responsibility to oversee the fulfillment of any other required course in the major).
4. Occasionally a student may transfer into Messiah who has already taken a course which would, customarily, have fulfilled the Major Writing Requirement. In such a case, it is the responsibility of the department chair, in consultation with the Director of Writing across the Curriculum, to determine the best way for this student to fulfill the Major Writing Requirement.
5. A Major W may be an actual *writing* course existing within the requirements of the major (for example, CLA 302 "Writing for Classicists"); more likely, it will be an already existing content course adapted to meet Major Writing Requirement parameters.
6. Although the subject content of the Major W course may remain the course's primary objective, the writing process should be an integral part of the intellectual and pedagogical fabric of the course.
7. The course should be taken after the First Year Seminar at the point deemed most advantageous by the department.
8. Students in the course will complete at least ten pages of finished, transactional (as opposed to reflective or poetic) writing.
9. Although it is realized that students of a given major can follow many different professional paths, writing assignments should attempt to reflect the kinds of writing they are likely to perform in their careers; that is, some emphasis should be placed upon features of writing which may be unique to the major discipline.
10. Helpful intervention (conferencing, tutoring, peer collaboration, professor comments on ungraded drafts, etc.) should be used in the writing processes of at least two distinct writing assignments.
11. Class size for all Major "W" courses should be no more than 25 students.