

WRITING INTENSIVE COURSES AT COLORADO COLLEGE

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

Colorado College wants its graduates to be able to write clear and cogent analytical prose. We encourage CC undergraduates to view writing as a means to develop understanding across the liberal arts curriculum. Writing Intensive Courses attach special importance to writing and revision and help students consciously develop greater facility in academic writing and critical thinking. Although students engage in writing in these courses to learn course content, of equal focus and concern in a Writing Intensive course is the writing process.

Writing Intensive courses serve the interests and needs of CC writers at all levels of proficiency and may be either introductory or upper-division courses. These courses help students develop the rhetorical skills of effective writers—specifically, the ability to:

- formulate a clear premise or argument;
- organize material compellingly;
- utilize effective evidence;
- write in a lucid prose style;
- develop a sense of writing to a specific audience;
- demonstrate an improved grasp of the grammar and mechanics of standard English;
- use writing as a heuristic tool in disciplinary work across the curriculum.

COURSE GUIDELINES

- Class size is limited to 12 students in a one-block course, 16 students in a team-taught one-block course, or 16 students in a two-block course.
- Writing Intensive Courses require a minimum of 15 double-spaced pages of polished, revised writing. Enrollment is limited in Writing Intensive courses to allow time for individual conferences, small group response, and detailed criticism. Professors of Writing Intensive courses should include process-based assignments and opportunities for revision of writing and incorporate both formal and informal writing in the course.
- Examples of formal assignments include lab reports, posters, abstracts, project proposals, précis, critical essays, journalism, response pieces, annotated bibliographies, literature reviews, or projects that involve research. Examples of informal writing include field notes, journal/e-journal entries, contributions to a course website, or in-class free writing.
- After submission of a First-Year Writing Portfolio or completion of two semesters of CC course work, successful completion of a Writing Intensive course may serve to fulfill the Writing Proficiency graduation requirement.