

CHOOSE YOUR PATH

A key part of your educational goal at Grand Valley is to develop the communication skills needed in your future career. Selecting the path that best fits your needs and abilities is the first step toward reaching that goal.

First-year Writing Placement Survey

Our First-year Writing Placement Survey asks a brief series of questions and will recommend your path based on your answers.

Your answers are anonymous and will not be stored.



Scan to take the survey
or navigate to
gvsu.edu/writingsurvey

STILL NOT SURE?

The Department of Writing is happy to answer your questions, review your writing, and help you decide which path is best for you.

You can reach the Department of Writing by calling (616) 331-3411 or emailing wrtdept@gvsu.edu. You may also visit their website at gvsu.edu/writing for additional information.

You will also have a chance to discuss your writing placement with an advisor during New Student Orientation this summer.

DEPARTMENT OF WRITING

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(616) 331-3411
wrtdept@gvsu.edu

gvsu.edu/writing

Registrar's Office

(616) 331-3327
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Admissions and Recruitment Office

(616) 331-2025
admissions@gvsu.edu

At Grand Valley State University, we empower learners in their pursuits, professions, and purpose. The university enriches society through excellent teaching, active scholarship, advancement of equity, and public service.



In support of GVSU's sustainability values, this paper contains fiber from certified, responsibly managed forests, was produced using certified renewable energy, and was printed locally.

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WHICH WRITING COURSE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

*Choose your
path to success*



UNDERSTAND GRAND VALLEY'S FOUNDATIONAL WRITING REQUIREMENTS

When you graduate from Grand Valley, you will be a fluent, confident, and versatile writer. No matter what major you choose, you will write, both formally and informally, in the majority of your classes to prepare you for the writing you will do in your career.

A General Education Foundation

You must complete the general education (GE) Foundations — Writing requirement to develop the core skills necessary to be a successful writer. You may fulfill this course requirement in one of two ways:

- » WRT 150
- » WRT 120 and WRT 130 (Stretch)

Writing Goals

After completing your GE writing requirement, you will be able to:

- » Read and discuss challenging material
 - » Summarize and analyze what you've read
 - » Conduct library research
 - » Establish and maintain a single focus or thesis
 - » Develop ideas with details and examples
 - » Cite and integrate ideas and information from academically credible sources
- » Participate in writing workshops and instructor conferences
 - » Use transitions and other devices to guide readers
 - » Use style, tone, and sentence structure for strategic effect
 - » Revise early drafts to improve focus, purpose, structure, and style
 - » Format and edit your writing

It's Your Choice

Some students are prepared to meet these goals in a single semester, while others prefer two semesters of practice and instruction. At Grand Valley, **you** get to decide which course or courses will best help you develop your skills based on your personal goals, needs, and experiences as a writer.

EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

PATH ONE: WRT 150

Path one is WRT 150, which focuses on academic writing, with a special emphasis on research-based writing. Instructors assume that you can summarize and analyze a variety of published materials, and you have experience incorporating research into your writing. Half of all class meetings take place in computer labs, so you should have a basic familiarity with computers.

- » 1 semester
- » 4 credits total
- » Grade of C or better fulfills GE requirement
- » Assumes some prior academic writing experience
- » Requires basic familiarity with computers

What to Expect

You will write three or four assignments that are between four to eight pages in length. You will spend a considerable amount of time revising and improving these assignments before they are graded.

Writing Portfolio

The majority of your final grade will be based on a portfolio of three finished pieces of writing that you believe represents your capabilities as a writer. Each portfolio is read and evaluated by your professor and at least one other first-year writing instructor. As faculty members, they represent the academic audience you will write for throughout your time as a student.

ALTERNATIVE PATHS

Consult with the GVSU registrar to determine if you will receive GE writing credit from one of these alternative paths.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Completing an AP English language or AP English literature course and scoring 3 or better on the AP examination may be eligible for credit.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

Credit may be earned through the CLEP College Composition Modular. *You must also submit a portfolio for review.*

Transfer Credit

Colleges in your area may offer composition courses that will transfer as WRT 150 credit.

PATH TWO: WRT 120 AND WRT 130 (STRETCH)

Path two is WRT 120 and WRT 130 (Stretch). The writing you do in these two classes will develop your comfort and confidence as a writer. This path is designed for students who would like more time and support from instructors to be able to demonstrate the skills required.

- » 2 semesters
- » 6 credits total
- » Grade of C or better in WRT 130 fulfills GE requirement
- » More time to develop your writing skills
- » Additional support from instructors

What to Expect

You will read essays written by professionals and students to become familiar with college-level genres and audience expectations. You will learn and practice strategies for research-based writing. In Stretch, you will complete assignments similar to those in WRT 150. By the end of WRT 130, you will complete a polished portfolio of three essays just like students in WRT 150.

What's Different About Stretch

- » You will develop the same writing skills as students who take WRT 150, but you will have two semesters instead of one to do so.
- » By working with the same instructor all year, you'll receive more support toward reaching your specific writing goals.