



UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR
EXCELLENCE IN WRITING
Florida Atlantic University

To: Jerry Haky, UUPC Chair

From: Jeff Galin, Director, Writing Across the Curriculum _____

Date: April 9, 2014

RE: Revisions to UUPC Guidelines and Procedures document Section 8.1 and WAC description

The Writing Across Curriculum committee recommends revisions to Item 8 of the currently published UUPC Guidelines and Procedures document (last updated 6/29/10). The recommendations are in accordance with state updates to the definition of Gordon Rule for writing, as they appear in Section VII.c "Policies relating to 2+2 Articulation" of the October 2011 version of the Florida Department of Education's Statewide Articulation Manual.

The current language with the recommended revisions is as follows:

8. Requirements for Gordon Rule, computational and for Writing Across Curriculum (Gordon Rule) courses:

Any new course being proposed as a Gordon Rule, computational course or Writing Across Curriculum (Gordon Rule) course or any existing course being changed to these specifications must meet the following requirements:

1. Compositional (Writing) Gordon Rule:

(also refer to Writing Across Curriculum guidelines below adopted in 2005)

a. Students are required to successfully complete six (6) semester hours of English coursework and six (6) semester hours of additional coursework in which the student is required to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments. Each institution shall designate the courses that fulfill the writing requirements of the Gordon Rule.~~The writing component of the course should be a minimum of 6000 words.~~

b. Both new courses being proposed as Gordon Rule and existing courses being changed to Gordon Rule should include a syllabus and either the "New Course" or "Course Change" form.

c. The syllabus should clearly indicate that the writing component of the course will require students to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments.~~write a minimum of 6000 words.~~



UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITING

Florida Atlantic University

- d. The syllabus should clearly indicate what the writing assignments will be and, thus, how the Gordon Rule requirement will be met.
- e. The syllabus should clearly describe the guidelines for the evaluation/grading of writing. These guidelines must include attention to composition, spelling, and content.
- f. The syllabus should clearly indicate that the course will endeavor to enhance writing skills, with special attention paid to composition and spelling.
- g. The syllabus should clearly indicate that a student cannot pass a Gordon Rule course if that student has not satisfied or passed the writing component of the course.
- h. The syllabus should clearly indicate that either a general or a discipline-specific writing manual will be used by the students. The writing manual can be a separate book or can be included in the appendix of the textbook being used.

Writing Across Curriculum (WAC)

Satisfying the Writing Component of the Gordon Rule

The General Education and Core Curriculum Taskforce has reviewed best practices for the effective teaching of writing at the college level. Based on this review, it believes that the writing component of the core curriculum can be improved by 1) allowing students to substitute a discipline-based writing intensive course for ENC 1102, 2) providing students with the opportunity to satisfy the remainder of the writing component of the Gordon Rule through [WAC-designated courses at the 2000-4000 level with a 3,000 or 6,000 minimum word requirement](#), and 3) ensuring that these courses use pedagogies that facilitate improvement in student compositional (writing) abilities and processes.

- a. Beginning with the fall 2005 semester, students will satisfy the writing component of the [24,000 word](#) Gordon Rule requirement as follows:
 - Students must complete, with a grade of “C” or better, [six \(6\) semester hours of English coursework](#), College Writing I and II [or their equivalents](#), which are first-year writing-intensive [courses \(6,000 words each\)](#). [WAC courses will have a 5000 word count approximation, +/- 1000 words.](#)



UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITING

Florida Atlantic University

- Students must satisfy the remaining six (6) semester hours of additional coursework~~12,000 words requirement~~ by completing, with a grade of “C” or better, two or more sophomore-to-senior-level Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) courses. WAC courses may have a 3,000 or 6,000 word count minimum. WAC courses will have a 5000 word count approximation, +/- 1000 words.

- b. College Writing I, College Writing II, and WAC courses must meet specific Gordon Rule requirements covered in #8 of the UUPC Guidelines.

- c. Faculty across the university may seek approval for and teach thematic College Writing II sections that are disciplinary based.

- d. The Department of English Writing Committee must review and approve College Writing I and College Writing II substitution courses before the semester in which they are taught.

- e. ~~A new~~The Writing Across the Curriculum Committee must review and approve Writing Across Curriculum Courses prior to UUPC approval.

- f. A website-based process for assessing improvement in student writing (from the six (6) semester hours of English in College Writing I/II to the completion of the additional six (6) credit hours of additional coursework at the sophomore to senior level) will be used to inform program initiatives. Each semester, sections of WAC courses will be randomly identified by IEA, participating students will submit writing samples to a specially designed website, and writing samples will be evaluated based on a university-approved, normed rubric at the end of the academic year. Prior to implementation, a portfolio-based process for assessing improvement in student writing (from College Writing I to the completion of the 24,000-word Gordon Rule requirement) will be developed.

- g. Support for faculty and students will be provided through the Boca Raton Campus University Center for Excellence in Writing.



UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR
EXCELLENCE IN WRITING
Florida Atlantic University

Approved by: WAC Committee Chair <u>David M. Murtagh</u> UUPC Chair: <u>J. I. My</u> Undergraduate Studies Dean: <u>Earl E. Smith</u> UFS President: <u>N/A</u> Provost: <u>N/A</u>	Date: <u>4/18/14</u> <u>4/22/14</u>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------