

## Writing Requirement

### *Rationale*

Macalester seeks to ensure that all students receive instruction in writing that gives attention to writing as a process (writing is rewriting), and that provides students individually with feedback on the mechanics and substance of their writing. While First Year Courses assists students in making a transition to college writing along with myriad aspects of college study, each student is required to take at least one additional course with a W designation, in which they will hone their writing skills and go through a process of evaluation and rewriting.

Writing instruction at Macalester aims at ensuring that students learn:

- How to plan, draft, and revise a college-level paper.
- How to construct an argument.
- How to organize an essay.
- How to use argumentation and evidence to support claims.
- How to adapt the style, vocabulary, and tone of a piece of writing to its anticipated audience and context.
- How to cite evidence using a standard citation style, such as MLA, APA, CMS, or CBE
- How to build a list of works cited using a standard citation style, such as MLA, APA, CMS, or CBE.
- The importance of clarity, proper grammar, usage, and style in academic writing.

**Motion:** EPAG moves that the Faculty endorse the refined description (statement, course approval criteria) of the Writing Requirement as follows:

***Writing Requirement:*** *Four (4) semester hours after the First Year Course and prior to the senior year earned in a course designated as meeting the Writing (W) requirement.*

### ***Course Approval Criteria***

Courses fulfilling the Writing Requirement will include:

- 1) Three or more writing assignments during the semester (at least one of which is an academic argument) or one larger research or term paper.
- 2) At least one writing assignment that undergoes revision based on faculty feedback. At a minimum this feedback should include comments that address content (e.g. questions of organization, development of arguments, use of evidence, consideration of audience, paragraph structure and flow), clarity and style, as well as mechanics, such as grammar and proper usage.
- 3) Evaluation of writing assignments that reflects writing quality as well as content mastery.
- 4) Discussion of writing processes, desired qualities of writing, or writing for different audiences.