

Gordon Rule Writing Proposal

The Gordon Rule Writing requirement is an important curricular statement in that all students must be able to express themselves appropriately through effective writing. Satisfactory completion of the Gordon Rule Writing requirement is a necessary condition for attaining this goal.

Gordon Rule Objectives:

Gordon Rule Writing courses have two objectives. First, they use writing assignments as a means to ensure students assimilate concepts explored in the courses' content areas. Second, these courses teach students to articulate their ideas clearly in standard written English for different audiences and in different contexts.

Student Learning Outcomes for Writing:

Students will:

- Present ideas clearly and precisely, supporting claims with adequate evidence
- Accurately and consistently employ the elements of standard written English (including punctuation, grammar, and usage)
- Convey complex arguments for a variety of audiences and contexts

General Description:

The current evaluative protocol for the writing requirements of the University is successful completion (Grade \geq C) of a Gordon Rule course. The proposed protocol would add satisfactory completion of the evaluated writing in a Gordon Rule class. The student will be put on notice that enrollment in a Gordon Rule class and writing the number of words prescribed are not sufficient for writing credit. There must also be evidence of satisfactory evaluated writing, and in the absence of such evidence the student will not receive credit toward the University Writing Requirement.

The instructor teaching the class determines the course grade and in a Gordon Rule class, also puts the writing assigned to the "satisfactory test" as defined by University rubrics. The default outcome is satisfactory; unsatisfactory will be noted and the student will receive no writing credit for the course.

These results will be reported in the student's term grade report and recorded in the student's ISIS audit; but will not be reflected on the student's official transcript.

Writing Requirement:

Current:

- Students must present evidence of writing totaling 24,000 words, evaluated as satisfactory, as a requirement for graduation.
- This required writing may be accomplished in courses that are certified as offering evaluated writing for:
 - 2,000 words;
 - 4,000 words;
 - 6,000 words.

- Evaluated writing is defined as:
 - Writing assignments must be received, evaluated, and returned to students prior to the last day of class.
 - Evaluations should include an assessment of the content, argument, organization, and use of standard written English.
 - Evaluations must be on individual work. Group submissions will not qualify.
- Students must earn a C or better in the course.

Proposed Additions:

- Any student enrolled in a Gordon Rule class who fails to complete the appropriate evaluated writing satisfactorily will not receive Gordon Rule credit for the class.
- Satisfactory completion ($\geq C$) of any General Education Composition course will automatically provide 6000 words of credit in the Gordon Rule domain.