

Writing Placement: Directed Self-Placement Survey

When you meet with your academic advisor about registering for classes, you will need to decide which writing course to take. Directed Self-Placement (DSP) is a placement method designed to help you make an informed decision and register for the writing course that is right for you. The course options are ENG 1310, ENG 1302, or ENG 1301 (for international students). (Note: If you are entering the College of Arts & Sciences or Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences, you may take a course offered on the Research Writing Distribution List* to fulfill the research writing requirement).

Use the following statements to guide you towards an appropriate writing course. You can find descriptions of each writing course option on page 2. Writing in academic contexts is a complex task, so we ask you to think carefully about your answers to ensure that you will be successful in your writing tasks at Baylor and beyond. If you still have questions about placement after completing the DSP, please contact your academic advisor.

If two or three of these statements are true for you, you should consider taking ENG 1310 (or another course offered on the Research Writing Distribution List for students in the College of Arts and Sciences or Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences). If four or more are true for you, it is strongly recommended that you take ENG 1310 or another course on the Research Writing DL*.

- My average grade in English classes during high school was a B or above.
- I was required to write more than two essays during my senior year of high school.
- I have developed effective strategies for reading and understanding long or complex texts.
- I was regularly required to write assignments of three or more pages in length for school or work in the last year.
- I have developed effective strategies for organizing my thoughts when I try to write a document.
- I am comfortable making changes to my writing based on feedback.
- I feel confident as a writer.

If two or three of these statements are true for you, you should consider taking ENG 1302. If four or more are true for you, it is strongly recommended that you take ENG 1302.

- My average grade in English classes during high school was below a B.
- I was not required to write more than one essay during my senior year of high school.
- I have a hard time reading and understanding long or complex texts.
- I have not been required to write assignments of three or more pages in length for school or work in the last year.
- I have difficulty with organizing my thoughts when I try to write a document.
- I struggle with making changes to my writing based on feedback.
- I do not feel confident as a writer.

Non-Native English Speakers

If English is not your first language, and you graduated from a U.S. high school, you should use the information above to choose a writing class. If English is not your first language, and you did not

graduate from a U.S. high school, you should register for ENG 1301 and contact Writing_Placement@baylor.edu to discuss whether ENG 1302 or 1310 might be more appropriate for you.

Descriptions of Course Options

ENG 1310: Writing & Academic Inquiry Seminars

This course provides a forum to discuss, analyze, and create nonfiction texts to develop your writing abilities, research skills, and rhetorical knowledge for academic, personal, professional, and civic pursuits. Every section of English 1310 investigates a theme, like Happiness or Music, and uses the theme as a springboard for exploring questions that interest you. You will present the results of your semester-long inquiry in two ways: a position essay, and a presentation that incorporates multimodal (i.e., visual, aural, textual) elements of persuasion.

ENG 1302: Thinking & Writing

English 1302 emphasizes the habits of mind and writing knowledge that are essential in college-level writing. In ENG 1302, you will learn flexible writing processes, develop rhetorical knowledge, and gain understanding of writing conventions used in various academic genres. You will learn to read and analyze nonfiction texts and complete multiple writing projects that develop your confidence and preparedness for writing in a variety of contexts. You will need to take an additional writing course after ENG 1302 to satisfy the requirements of your degree plan.

ENG 1301: English as a Second Language: Composition Skills

English 1301 is designed to help international students at Baylor develop their writing practices within a small learning community. This course will help you improve various aspects of your writing, including topic development, organization, grammar, and word choice. ENG 1301 does not satisfy course credits towards a degree program, but it will provide a crucial foundation for your success at Baylor.

*Research Writing Distribution List Course Options

In all of these courses, you will learn and practice writing and research skills integral to academic, civic, professional or technical pursuits. Confirm with your advisor that the course you want to take will satisfy the degree requirements for your major.

- CLA 1304: From Ancient Rhetoric to Modern Research Writing
- ENG 1310: Writing and Academic Inquiry Seminars
- ENV 43C2: Environmental Capstone
- HIS 2395: Historiography
- PHI 1301: Introductory Topics in Philosophy
- PHI 2305: Philosophy and Religion
- PSC 3301: Scope and Methods of Political Science
- REL 3305: Interpreting the Old Testament