

Minutes of the  
DEVW Steering Committee  
August 19, 2008  
12-2:45 p.m.

**Exit from 1411**

We approved the following statement:

The Developmental Writing Curriculum Committee has identified DEVW 1411 as a TSI exit level course when such a course is combined with ENGL 1301 regardless of whether a student passes ENGL 1301.

**Course Description Changes**

We are changing the course description for DEVW 1411 to reflect the new rigorous standards for ENG 4.0.

The statement will read as follows:

This course is also offered as a learning community combined with ENGL. Writing Skills II students can fulfill their TSI requirements and have an opportunity to earn college credit in ENGL 1301.

Prerequisites:

- A) TSI Complete in Reading and
- B) TSI essay score of 5 and one of the following writing scores: T COM 51-58; TCPT 76-79; T ASSET 38-39 OR a grade of B or better in DEVW 1403

**Compass Essays**

We will try to get Compass essays from assessment to share with English faculty.

**Compass Diagnostics**

The developmental writing faculty opposes the use of the Compass Diagnostics for the following reasons:

1. It doesn't provide an accurate picture of our students' abilities to write essays.
2. We already administer a diagnostic essay the first week of classes that provides a more accurate picture and assists us in placing students in DEVW levels and referring students to ESOL.

3. The test is poorly designed. In some cases, it is not clear which skill an item is testing. The test focuses on reading and grammar skills rather than production of writing.

### **Summer Bridge Program**

Stacey will meet with Sharon King to discuss timing, criteria to define student eligibility, objectives and location for future Bridge Programs.

### **Grammar Final**

The committee will administer the exams to classes this fall and submit answer sheets at the end of the semester to do an item analysis. Frank will send an email in the middle of the semester to remind everyone to look at the tests.

### **Midterm Grading Sessions**

Writing Skills II faculty will read all essays prior to the midterm grading session and pull the A and B essays--scores of 20+.

We will pre-grade the grammar.

The grading session will be on Friday, November 14, at 4 p.m.

### **Essay Topics**

We approved a list of topics for Fall 2008, Spring 2009 and Summer 2009.

The task force asked Frank to update two topics:

Drinking Age Limit  
Student Rewards

Also, the task force wants Frank to work on prompts for new topics:

Border Wall  
Testing for Steroids  
Four Day School Week

### **Syllabus**

Lab will be worth at least 10 percent of the student's grade.

The online departmental syllabus will be updated by Patti to indicate that exit essays will be scored using the Pass-Fail Scale.

## **Mentoring**

Frank has added more information about faculty evaluations and portfolios to the mentoring checklist in order to insure that adjunct faculty comply with these requirements.

## **DEVW Student Scholarship**

Frank Cronin has proposed that we establish a DEVW scholarship. Frank, Deanna and Brian will explore the options.

## **January Meeting with Adjuncts**

Calibrate three essays

The meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 15, 2009 from 6-9 p.m.

## **Spring Grading Session**

May 9, 2009.

## **Minutes**

The task force approved the decision to see if Stephanie Bailey will take minutes in future meetings.