## Writing in the Disciplines (Formerly Area Z)

*pages 40-41 of Fall 2022 SJSU GE Guidelines*

[*https://sjsu.edu/general-education/faculty/ge-guideline.php*](https://sjsu.edu/general-education/faculty/ge-guideline.php)*.*

Writing in the Disciplines (WID) courses develop students’ abilities to communicate effectively in their major course of study and in their careers. With an emphasis on critical thinking, these upper-division core courses advance students’ understanding of the genres, audiences, and purposes of college writing while preparing them for successful communication in their chosen professions.

###### Goals

Students will develop advanced proficiency in college-level writing and appropriate contemporary research strategies and methodologies to communicate effectively to both specialized and general audiences. Writing in the Disciplines should reinforce and advance the abilities developed in Written Communication I (A2) and Critical Thinking and Writing (A3) courses, and broaden and deepen these to include mastery of the discourse particular to the discipline(s) in which the course is taught. A minimum grade of C (not including C-) meets this CSU graduation requirement.

###### Writing in the Disciplines Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of a Writing in the Disciplines course, students should be able to:

1. explain, analyze, develop, and critique ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse;
2. organize and develop complete discipline-specific texts and other documents for both professional and general audiences, using appropriate editorial and citation standards; and
3. locate, organize, and synthesize information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and to communicate that purpose in writing;
4. produce discipline-specific written work that demonstrates upper-division proficiency in language use, grammar, and clarity of expression.

###### Content

1. Writing in the Disciplines courses are discipline-specific. All courses will use language and forms of writing appropriate to the discipline.
2. Writing assignments shall total a minimum of 8000 words assigned throughout the semester, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form. How the 8000-word minimum will be met and distributed must be clearly indicated on course syllabi.
3. Courses shall give students repeated practice in all phases of the writing process: prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing.
4. Courses shall provide opportunities for students to revise drafts based on feedback from the course instructor. A single final term paper does not satisfy the requirement.

###### Course prerequisites

1. Completion of Core GE

2. Declaration of major in the appropriate discipline

3. At least 60 earned semester units

4. Completion of appropriate placement mechanisms.

###### Diversity requirement

Issues of diversity shall be incorporated in an appropriate manner (as described in the Diversity Goals and Content section).

###### Grade Requirements

**A-F.** Completing Writing in the Disciplines with a C or better is a SJSU graduation requirement.

###### Class size

Writing in the Disciplines course sections should be limited to 25 students. Departments teaching Writing in the Disciplines sections with enrollments exceeding 25 students must provide a summary, in the GE section of the Program Planning Study, indicating how practice, feedback, and revisions in writing are addressed.

###### Instructor qualifications

1. excellence in teaching;
2. an appropriate terminal degree, or a master’s degree with demonstrated knowledge and expertise in the subject matter;
3. college-level teaching experience or graduate training in the subject matter of the course; and
4. a professional commitment to the learning needs of a diverse student body.

**Supplementary assistance**

Some students may require special or more assistance than the regular class can provide. In such cases, faculty shall refer the student to the appropriate program for special or supplementary assistance.

