General Education Focus Requirements*

W courses are one of the four types of Focus courses that are required for graduation.

Contemporary Ethical Issues (E)
1 course required
Students read about and discuss contemporary ethical issues and learn how to make responsible ethical judgments.

Hawaiian, Asian, & Pacific Issues (H)
1 course required
Students learn how the native culture of Hawai'i is similar to and different from cultures of other Pacific Islands or Asian countries.

Oral Communication (O)
1 course required
Students learn oral communication skills and develop their oral competencies. (Classes limited to 20-30 students.)

Writing Intensive (W)
5 courses required
(including 2 numbered 300 and above)
Students use writing to enhance learning and use instructor feedback to improve writing skills. (Classes limited to 20 students.)

* Focus requirements apply to students who entered the UH system in Fall 2001 or later. For complete information on all General Education requirements, consult the UHM Catalog or a College Advisor.

On-Campus Help for Writers

If you need help with your writing, talk to your teacher first. Then, if you want outside help, contact:

- Writing Center — offers half- and one-hour consultations. To set up an appointment, go to www.english.hawaii.edu/writingcenter (open spring and fall semesters only).

- Learning Assistance Center — helps students with writing and other academic needs. For more information or to make an appointment, call 956-6114, email learning@hawaii.edu, or visit www.manoa.hawaii.edu/learning.

- KOKUA Program — helps students with disability-related academic needs. Call 956-7511, email kokua@hawaii.edu, or stop by the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services, Room 013. Information is also available online at www.hawaii.edu/kokua.


Call, email, or go online for help.

Writing-Intensive Courses: Information for Students

You are enrolled in a W course, one of over 450 that are offered each semester.
What are Writing-Intensive Courses?

Does "writing-intensive" (W) mean more writing? Usually it does. But that's only half the picture. W courses emphasize writing as a way to help you

- Think critically.
- Generate ideas.
- Remember what you've learned.
- Synthesize & analyze ideas.

W courses are active-learning courses. Teachers use different types of writing assignments to get you thinking and learning. You may discover that each W course is a new experience, with new types of writing that require new strategies. Or your W course may build on writing strategies you used in previous courses. Whatever the case, the goals will be the same: to improve thinking skills, enhance learning, and sharpen writing abilities.

Write to Learn

Writing a research paper helps you learn about a subject. But that's not the only way to learn through writing. You can freewrite to discover connections, keep a journal to develop ideas, write a minute paper to focus on an issue, or take field notes to record observations and insights. The list goes on and on. W classes introduce you to ways of writing that develop new ways of thinking.

Write to Communicate

After you've spent time thinking-on-paper, it's time to draft your ideas more formally. How you do this depends on your content and your intended reader. Writing a good research paper in history is different from writing a good financial report. In W courses, you learn how to present your ideas in the format and style that are appropriate for a particular field. Your teachers will help you. They may analyze a writing sample, talk with you one-on-one, write comments on drafts, or demonstrate techniques for drafting. UH has limited your W class to twenty students to make sure that the teacher has time to help everyone.

Mānoa Writing Program

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