

COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY College Specific Tier II Writing Criteria

The College of Human Ecology issued the following Tier II guidelines to the Departments, Schools and Programs that offer undergraduate degrees.

A direction critical to the new semesters curriculum at Michigan State University is to strengthen writing skills of undergraduate students. The University has adopted recommendations of the Joint Committee on Writing Requirements¹ which should, “when operationalized, significantly improve writing instruction for MSU undergraduate students.” Among the recommendations adopted was replacement of the current first year writing program, involving nine quarter credits, with a two-tier program of writing across the curriculum.

One first year four-semester credit writing course has been designated as the Tier I writing requirement. Tier II requires students to write in upper level courses within disciplines.

At the University level, the Tier II writing requirement specifies that:

“Students must satisfy an upper level writing requirement as stipulated by their College and approved by the University Committee on Curriculum. Units need to identify “W” courses and/or clusters of courses which meet the requirements.”

In accord with this directive, the College Undergraduate Education Committee proposes that the Tier II writing requirement for the College of Human Ecology is characterized by the following:

1. The Tier II writing requirement should be designated separately for each undergraduate program, using courses required for the program, and using writing experiences that are inherently a part of those courses.
2. The Tier II writing requirement should span at least two, but no more than four courses. Ideally, these courses would spread across the junior and senior years.
3. The composite Tier II writing requirement should reflect the types of writing appropriate to the discipline/profession.
4. For Tier II writing assignments, timely feedback (approximately within one week) should be provided. The student should have at least a week for revision before resubmission for a grade on the assignment.
5. A Tier II writing assignment should be so designated on the course syllabus and assigned a weight in the total course evaluation. Courses containing Tier II experiences may have writing assignments in addition to those designated as Tier II writing requirement.
6. Criteria for evaluating the writing assignments within the Tier II writing requirement should be communicated to the students.

¹ Joint Committee on Writing Requirements, Report of the Joint Committee on Writing Requirements. A Michigan State University unpublished report. December 1990. (Approved by Academic Council, January 8, 1991)