



# WRITING

## *across the curriculum*

NEWSLETTER



## WAC NEWS & EVENTS

### Student Writing Journal

The Faculty Senate Reading and Writing Subcommittee is now accepting submissions for

*Writing the University*, an online journal of undergraduate writing across disciplines at Sacramento State ([www.csus.edu/wac/journal](http://www.csus.edu/wac/journal)).

We encourage submissions of writing in any genre (critical analysis, book review, lab report, case study, etc.) from students in courses in any discipline (natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, etc.). See website for submission guidelines.

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To find out more about the WAC program or to schedule a consultation, contact Dan Melzer, University Reading and Writing Coordinator, at [melzer@csus.edu](mailto:melzer@csus.edu) or (916) 278-6925.

## The 2009 Writing Across the Curriculum Faculty Development Retreat: Teaching Reading and Writing in any Discipline

MONDAY,  
 AUGUST 24, 2009  
 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 SACRAMENTO STATE  
 UNIVERSITY  
 ALUMNI CENTER



Writing Across the Curriculum invites full and part-time teachers in the Sacramento region to attend a free workshop focused on teaching reading and writing in any discipline. Join colleagues from across the curriculum for a day of sharing ideas and assignments in an interactive workshop.

<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designing effective reading and writing assignments</li> <li>• Sequencing reading and writing assignments</li> <li>• Teaching reading and writing as a process</li> <li>• Designing peer response</li> </ul>	<p><b>Workshop Leaders:</b></p> <p>Dan Melzer, University Reading and Writing Coordinator, CSUS</p> <p>Amy Heckathorn, Writing Programs Coordinator, CSUS</p> <p>Fiona Glade, Graduation Writing Assessment Coordinator, CSUS</p>
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Breakfast and lunch will be served.  
 To register for the retreat, contact Dan Melzer at [melzer@csus.edu](mailto:melzer@csus.edu) or 278-6925.  
 Space is limited: please respond by June 1st.

## Changes to the Comprehensive Writing Program for Fall 2009

In spring 2006, the Faculty Senate Reading and Writing Subcommittee, in response to a mandate from the Senate to improve the content and sequencing of students' experiences as writers at Sacramento State, proposed a variety of changes to the Comprehensive Writing Program that were approved by the Senate and President Gonzalez and are scheduled to be fully implemented in fall 2009. These changes create an

intensive writing experience for students their first three years (first-year, sophomore, and junior), emphasize the importance of discipline-specific ways of writing and thinking, and emphasize validity in the assessment of student writing (assessment by course grades and writing portfolios rather than one-shot timed writing tests).

### Changes to the Comprehensive Writing Program fully implemented in fall 2009

#### Changes to English 20/English 20M (multilingual), College Composition II

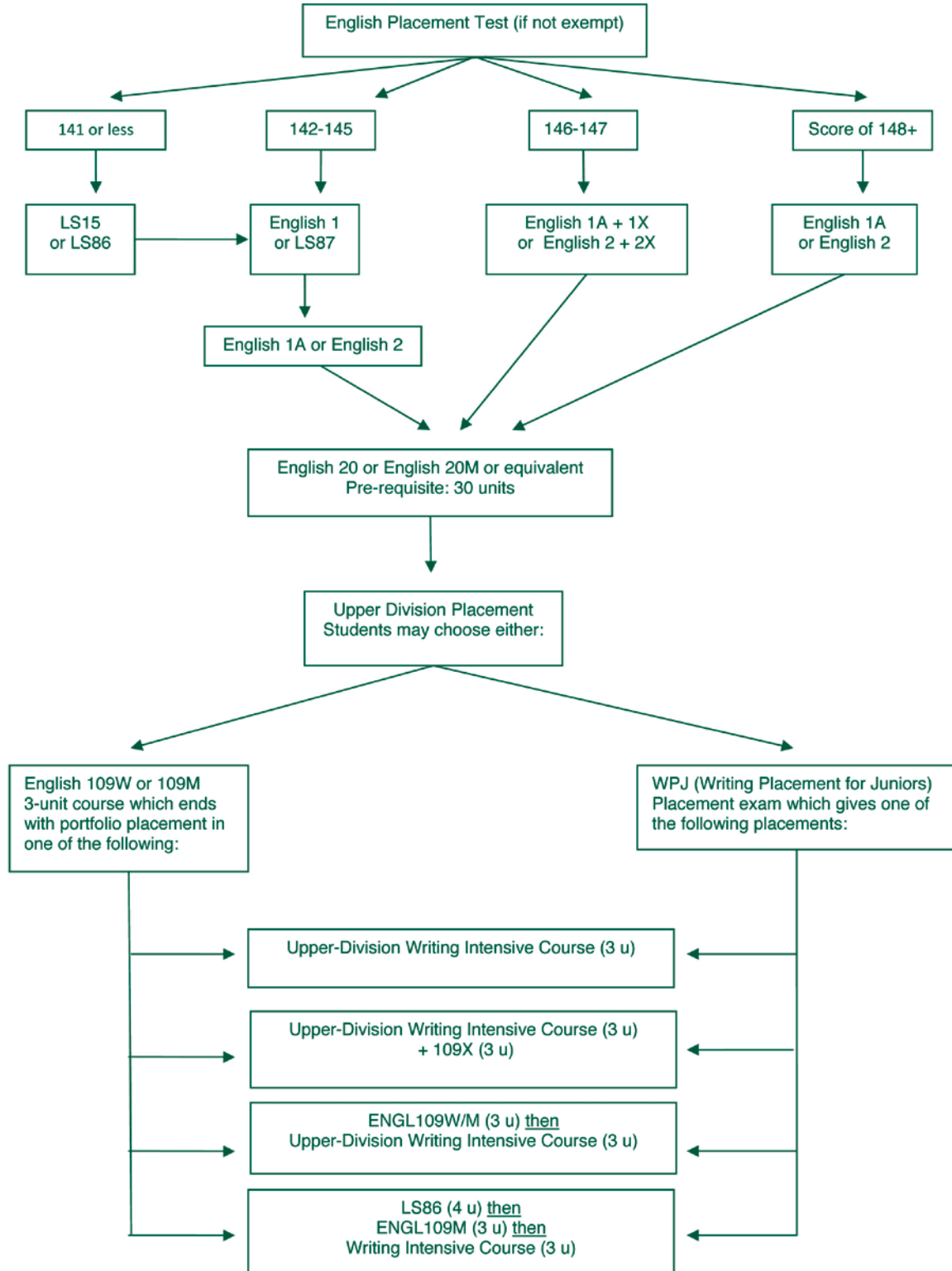
- Reinstatement of the 30 unit prerequisite for ENGL20/ENGL20M
- ENGL20/ENGL20M or a community college equivalent will be a prerequisite for the GVAR (Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement)
- The ENGL 20/ENGL20M curriculum now focuses on helping students learn to analyze a variety of kinds of texts from across the curriculum and on introducing students to the conventions of writing and researching across disciplines.

#### Changes to the GVAR (Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement)

- The WPJ (Writing Placement for Juniors) will replace the WPE (Writing Proficiency Exam). The WPJ will be a placement tool that students take only once, not a barrier proficiency exam.
- A passing grade in a Writing Intensive course will satisfy the GVAR (Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement), not the WPJ.
- Students will either self-place into ENGL109W/ENGL109M (an academic writing course) or elect to take the WPJ in their first semester of junior status (60-74 units) and before taking the WI (Writing Intensive). The GVAR is now a two-step process.
- If students elect to take the WPJ rather than self-place into ENGL109W/ENGL109M, they will take it only once and be placed into 3 units (the WI course), 4 units (the WI course plus a new one-unit group tutorial taken concurrently with the WI course, 109X), 6 units (109W followed by the WI) or more than 6 units (additional course or courses prior to 109W).
- Whether students choose to take 109W/109M or are placed into it, the course will culminate in a final portfolio placement with the same options as the WPJ placement (see above).

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact Dan Melzer, Chair, Subcommittee for Reading and Writing, at 278-6925 or [melzer@csus.edu](mailto:melzer@csus.edu)

## Sacramento State University Revised Comprehensive Writing Program Flow Chart



## Call for Applications

# Fall 2009 Writing Across the Curriculum Faculty Seminar



*Writing Center contact information:*

*Phone: 278-6356*

*Email: [writingcenter@csus.edu](mailto:writingcenter@csus.edu)*

*Web site:*

*[www.csus.edu/writingcenter](http://www.csus.edu/writingcenter)*

Writing Across the Curriculum invites full and part-time faculty from across disciplines to apply to attend a new faculty development seminar for teaching reading and writing in your discipline. All attendees will receive:

- a modest stipend (\$200) that can be used for travel funds
- a copy of John Bean's Engaging Ideas: *The Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom*
- a letter of appreciation to your Department Chair and for your RTP file

Seminar participants will choose a specific course they will teach in spring or fall 2010 and design and sequence reading and writing assignments and activities with the help of peers and the seminar facilitator. All seminar participants will read and discuss John Bean's *Engaging Ideas*, a helpful guide for integrating reading and writing in any discipline. There will be a total of six two-hour meetings on the first and third Fridays of September, October, and November. The format of the seminar will be discussion and workshop.

## Seminar information:

**Days:** 1st and 3rd Fridays in September, October, and November in fall 2009

**Time:** 12:00-2:00

**Location:** University Writing Center, 128 CLV

**Participants will receive a \$200 stipend that can be used for travel funds.**

**Lunch will be served at each meeting.**

To apply for a seat in the seminar, send the following materials in an email to Dan Melzer, University Reading and Writing Coordinator, at [melzer@csus.edu](mailto:melzer@csus.edu):

- Your name and department
- The course you will design/revise during the seminar
- A one-paragraph description of your philosophy of teaching reading and writing
- A one-paragraph discussion of how you are currently planning to design/revise your reading and writing assignments

**Applications are due by May 1st. Space will be limited to no more than fifteen participants.**

**Applicants will receive a notice of acceptance by May 15.**