

Guidelines for the English 101 Proficiency Exams

In accordance with the University's policy toward "academically *talented* students," the Writing Studies Program in the Department of English offers proficiency credit for English 101 (2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalog, 48, emphasis added). The Writing Studies Program offers this credit to students who pass a rigorous nine-hour examination, during which they must write in a variety of forms and thereby indicate that they have developed a sufficient level of proficiency in the areas of written communication addressed in English 101, such as narration, self-reflection, analysis, and rhetorical criticism. To be eligible for this test, a student can never have enrolled in English 101 and received a grade (including a W, a PR, or an INC).

Time and Location of Exam

Students interested in taking this test must sit for **each** of the three 3-hour components of the exam. The exams are held the first week of classes on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with a make-up session on Saturday (no other make-up sessions will be offered). Call or visit the English Department for updated exam times.

NOTE: Students must arrive **30 minutes prior** to the exam on the first day, and **15 minutes prior** on subsequent days, and no student will be admitted once the exam begins.

What to Bring

2 blue or black ink pens

SIU student ID

A grammar handbook and/or dictionary that meets the approval of the exam proctor

Attendance in English 101

It is imperative that students continue to attend their English 101 class until they receive notification they have passed the proficiency exam; students will not be given excused absences as they are awaiting their results.

Notification of Exam Score

After Tuesday during the second week of classes, letters with exam scores will be available for pick-up in **Faner 2390**. Students **MUST** present their SIU IDs to receive their letters. Students who pass the proficiency exam will need to see their advisors immediately to drop English 101 and add either English 102 or another course.

Reservations/Questions Concerning the Proficiency Exam

To reserve a seat for the exam, or receive further information, please contact:

Writing Studies ~ Office Specialist

Faner Hall—Room 2390 (618) 453-6811

Considerations in Evaluating the Exam

Per the current Undergraduate Catalog, "upon passing the proficiency examinations, students are granted course credit and receive a *Pass* grade" (48). The Writing Studies Program believes that a *Pass* grade illustrates a student's achievement of the outcomes outlined in the course

description for English 101; therefore, examinations that merit a passing score must demonstrate these outcomes. Students who receive proficiency credit in English 101 should be able to:

- Generate effective compositions using various methods for critical thought, for the development of ideas, for the arrangement of those ideas to achieve a specific rhetorical goal, for the application of an appropriate style, and for revision and editing;
- Demonstrate understanding of the ways that language and communication shape experience, construct meaning, and foster community;
- Analyze and describe rhetorical contexts and use such descriptions to increase the efficacy of communicative acts;
- Analyze and use the forms and conventions of academic writing, particularly the forms and conventions of argumentative and analytical writing;
- Produce texts that demonstrate an understanding of how purpose, process, subject matter, form, style, tone, and diction are shaped by particular audiences and by specific communicative constraints and opportunities;
- Understand the importance of research to writing, explain the kind of research required by different kinds of writing, and compose effective texts by judiciously using field research, library resources, and sources retrieved from electronic media;
- Employ critical reading and listening as forms of invention;
- Efficiently compose reading and lecture notes that are concise and clear;
- Synthesize different and divergent information, using the integration of information from multiple sources to engage in critical discourse;
- Use Edited American English appropriately.

Exams will be scored by the Writing Studies Committee, which is made up of faculty in the English department. Please note that the committee's decisions are final.