



WRITING ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT AT MADONNA UNIVERSITY

It's about your success, in college and on the job...

“The faculty and staff at Madonna University have made a commitment to writing across the disciplines. They recognize that writing competency affects a student’s success in college, in graduate school, in the professions, and in everyday life. For this reason, Madonna University actively promotes the development of strong writing skills.”

-MU 2014-2016 Bulletin

The policy

All incoming undergraduate students, including those transferring from other institutions of higher education, are required to write an assessment essay created and scored by Madonna University writing faculty, for placement in MU’s required writing courses.

All students must have fulfilled their writing requirements by the end of their third semester at Madonna.

Plan ahead to write the assessment essay

To take your writing assessment online, go to “Online Writing Assessment Instructions” under <http://www.madonna.edu/resources/writing-center/writing-assessments>

Q&A about the writing assessment

When should I take my writing assessment?

- You are expected to take your assessment as soon as you receive your admission letter, prior to attending orientation and registering for your first courses.

Is there anyone who doesn't have to take the writing assessment?

- Yes: Students who have already earned a bachelor’s degree, those scoring 7 or higher on the writing portion of the ACT, and those scoring 6 or higher on the writing portion of the SAT.

What will I be writing about?

- You will be given a topic that asks you to use your personal experience in order to write a freshman-level essay.

How are the assessment essays scored?

- Each one is read by two or three writing professors, using the same scoring guide.

How will I know what my placement score is?

- Your placement score will appear on Blackboard within two or three days, under “My Grades.”

What happens if I disagree with my placement score?

- You are allowed to re-take the assessment once.

I have transfer credits for both WRT 1010 and WRT 1020. Why do I have to write the assessment essay?

- Sometimes students with credits may still need to take a writing review course if the assessment indicates that they would benefit from this.

SCORING SYSEM FOR THE WRITING ASSESSMENT ESSAY

Students entering Madonna University with no transferable composition credits:

- 5 — placement in WRT 1020 (WRT 1010 is waived.)
- 4 — placement in WRT 1010, followed by WRT 1020.
- 3 — placement in 1 s.h. of WRT 1000, Writing Workshop, simultaneous with WRT 1010; followed by WRT 1020.
- 2 — placement in 2 s.h. of WRT 1000, Writing Workshop, simultaneous with WRT 1010; followed by WRT 1020.
- 1 — placement in 3 s.h. of WRT 1000, Writing Workshop, which must be completed prior to registering for WRT 1010.
- ESL — referral to ESL program for evaluation and placement in one or more credit-bearing courses, or individual tutoring in the Writing Center.
- ACT or SAT — score of 7 or higher on the writing portion of the ACT, or 6 or higher on the writing portion of the SAT: placement in WRT 1010, followed by WRT 1020.

Students with transferable composition credits:

- 4T — needs no additional support beyond WRT 1010 and WRT 1020.
- 3T — placement in 1 s.h. of WRT 1150, Writing Review (may be simultaneous with a Madonna composition course).
- 2T — placement in 2 s.h. of WRT 1150, Writing Review (may be simultaneous with a Madonna composition course).
- 1T — placement in 3 s.h. of WRT 1150, Writing Review, before any further composition courses.
- ESL — referral to ESL program for evaluation and placement in one or more credit-bearing courses, or individual tutoring in the Writing Center.

Writing 1000: Writing Workshop (1-3 s.h.)

Individualized instruction for students developing college-level writing skills. Working with tutors in the Writing Center for a prescribed number of hours per week is a requirement for this course.

Writing 1150: Writing Review (1-3 s.h.)

Individualized instruction for transfer students who would benefit from a review of college-level writing and research skills. Working with tutors in the Writing Center for a prescribed number of hours per week is a requirement for this course.

WRT 1010: College Composition I (3 s.h.)

Study and practice of strategies for academic writing, with a focus on writing and reading descriptive, narrative, and expository essays. Emphasis on writing as a process. Introduction to information literacy.

WRT 1020: College Composition II (3 s.h.)

Study and practice of strategies for academic writing, with a focus on writing and reading persuasive and argumentative essays. Continued emphasis on writing as a process. Development of information literacy skills as applied to writing a substantial research paper.