

***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 2010-2012 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***

Sign up for one of the regular assessment sessions. The schedule of sessions will be posted on the Writing Center website: <http://Madonna.edu/pages/wcenter.cfm>. It will also appear in the most recent course schedule booklet.

To sign up for a session, or to arrange for special accommodations, call the Office of the Registrar at (734) 432-5400 or e-mail [registrar@madonna.edu](mailto:registrar@madonna.edu).

**Note to transfer students:** When you arrive for the assessment session, you will be asked to note for us the course numbers, titles, institutions, and grades of any transfer composition courses you may have completed. It may facilitate your notes to us if you bring student copies of your previous college transcripts.

***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 registering for your first courses. However, applicants who are completing the admission process may take the assessment even before receiving their admission letter, thus expediting placement and clarifying course choices for your first Madonna University registration.

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

- Students scoring 7 or higher on the ACT essay exam may go directly into WRT 1010.

**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 at least two writing instructors, using the same scoring guide.

**How will I know what my placement score is?**

- You will receive an e-mail from the assessment coordinator, Frances FitzGerald.

**What happens if I disagree with my placement score?**

- You may be allowed to re-take the assessment once. Call Dr. Ann Russell at (734) 432-5438 or email [arussell@madonna.edu](mailto:arussell@madonna.edu).

**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.

More questions? Get in touch with the Writing Center, Room 1403, at (734) 432-5304.

# SCORING SYSTEM 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; this course is followed by WRT 1020.
- ESL — referral to the ESL program for evaluation and placement in one or more credit-bearing courses, or individual tutoring in the Writing Center.
- ACT — score of 7 or greater on ACT Writing: placement in WRT 1010, followed by WRT 1020.

## *Students with transferable Composition credits:*

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

## **WRT 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.

## **WRT 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. An exit portfolio, to be scored by at least two Composition instructors, is required for successful completion of the course.