

Curry College Writing Placement: Directed Self Placement Frequently Asked Questions

i X What is directed self-placement (DSP)?

Directed self-placement, DSP, is a widely used writing placement model in higher education. Instead of using scores from standardized tests, computer-scored writing exams, or a placement essay, students learn about the options available and choose the best option for them. As students make decisions about which courses are best for them, they should be thinking about their prior experiences with reading and writing, the kind of learner they are and what they need to be successful in first year writing courses.

i X What are the options for first year writing classes for incoming students?

Option 1 - WRIT1400 Reading, Writing & Research I

This course serves as an introduction to the kind of reading and writing students will be expected to do in college. Emphasis will be placed on developing confidence as writers, especially students' identities as writers through practice and reflection. This course will present strategies for critical reading, purposeful revision, and reflection. Most students admitted to Curry College are prepared to be successful in WRIT1400 Reading, Writing & Research I. After completing this course, students take the second required writing course, WRIT 1500 Reading, Writing & Research II.

Option 2 - WRIT1200 Reading, Writing & Research PLUS

This course covers the same material and fulfills the same requirements as WRIT1400 Reading, Writing & Research I, but this version of the course also includes an additional one-hour Writing Studio each week. In the Writing Studio, students work with their professor on writing projects and other work from the course. Students who complete this course successfully move on to WRIT1500 Reading, Writing & Research II.

Option 3 - WRIT1060 Academic Writing Process

This course offers practice and instruction in reading and writing to help students develop as writers who will be successful in the kind of writing they will be expected to do in college. Students who need this course often face significant struggles related to reading and writing or may be students for whom English is not their first language. After completing this course, students will take Reading, Writing & Research I and Reading, Writing, Research II.

ii X What if I took AP English and Composition in high school?

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