

## USI Composition Placement Process and Policies

The Rhetoric and Composition Program at USI believes that communication, critical thinking and creativity are essential skills for all college students to develop, and the first-year composition sequence is designed to provide you with a foundation in each of these areas. In order to succeed in these fundamental courses, it is important for each student to begin the sequence with the course that best fits her or his needs. Students are automatically enrolled in ENG 101 if they meet two of these three criteria:

- High school rank: 51% or above
- ACT/SAT Verbal: 450 or above
- ACT/SAT Writing: 450 or above

### *Writing Placement*

Students who do not meet two of these three criteria compose a Writing Placement Essay. This essay is completed during a 45-minute period at USI. Each essay is scored by at least two instructors. If the two instructors agree, then the student may enroll in the appropriate course (ENG 101, ENG 100, or GENS 098). If the first two instructors do not agree, then the essay is scored by a third reader, and the student is placed in the course on which two of the three instructors agree.

### *Placement Retakes*

Placement via the Writing Placement Essay exam is final and cannot be appealed. The Writing Placement Essay cannot be retaken.

### *Placement into ENG 201*

Enrollment in ENG 201 requires credit for ENG 101. Credit for ENG 101 may be obtained in one of three ways:

- the student completes ENG 101 at USI or through USI's College Achievement Program (CAP) with a C or better
- the student completes the high school Advanced Placement Course (AP) in Language and Literature or Language and Composition with a score of 3 or higher and pays the appropriate fee for credit to USI
- the student completes an ENG 101 equivalent course at or through another college or university

USI does not accept credit for the ENG 101 requirement through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP).

### *Waiver of ENG 201 Requirement*

Students may place out of ENG 101 and ENG 201 by completing the high school Advanced Placement Course (AP) in Language and Composition with a score of 4 or higher.

On rare occasions, a student may have completed a Writing Across the Curriculum or Writing in the Disciplines course or courses at another college or university. Such instances will be evaluated by the Director of Composition on a case-by-case basis and will require students to supply substantial evidence of the work required and completed for the course or courses in question. In these instances, if the ENG 201 requirement is waived, the ENG 101 requirement is waived as well.

### **Whom Do I Contact with Questions about Placement?**

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