

Motions of the 2026-2027 Faculty Senate

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Motion 26-27.01 Motion to Preserve the Existing Upper-level Writing Intensive (WI) Requirement

Faculty Senate supports maintaining the requirement that students have at least three credit hours of 300-level or above course work coded as Writing Intensive (WI) as a university requirement. This requirement is not part of the General Education Program, but curricular oversight of this requirement will be conducted by the General Education Committee.

Rationale:

As part of the REAL General Education Curriculum, all students who were not exempted from completing the REAL Curriculum were required to complete at least three credit hours of course work coded as Writing Intensive (WI) at the 300-level or above. That requirement will be in effect as part of general education for incoming students through the summer of 2027. This motion, if passed, will preserve that requirement, but as a university requirement, not as part of any general education curriculum.

Having an upper-level writing requirement for all students will be good for students. Being able to write well at an advanced level is a skill long considered appropriate for college graduates to have and is a skill beneficial for students in any professional and personal setting. While this skill has always been important, it may be now more important than ever given the impact of Large Language Models on all forms of writing.

Having an upper-level writing requirement has the support of many faculty members. On 1 May 2025, Faculty Senate debated a motion that would have eliminated the upper-level Writing Intensive (WI) requirement (see Motion 24-25.29) from the general education program. While it was noted that the requirement could impede the path to graduation, several senators spoke against the motion, specifically highlighting the need for students to have advanced writing skills. The motion to eliminate the requirement failed.

Maintaining this requirement by making it a university requirement beginning for students entering the university in Fall 2027 will not be difficult. Programs already have ways for their students to satisfy the requirement. All upper-level courses currently coded WI can remain so. The conditions for getting new upper-level courses coded as WI can remain as they are, and the learning goals and outcomes can remain as they are. (Those conditions, goals, and outcomes were defined in Motion 19-20.04.) Assessment plans can remain in place. And although it will be a university rather than a general education requirement, oversight of the requirement can be handled by the committee overseeing the general education program.

With all the apparatus needed to support a requirement that has the support of many faculty members, it is sensible to maintain a requirement that is a boon to student learning.

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