

For course descriptions not found in the UC San Diego General Catalog, 2010–11, please contact the department for more information.

OFFICE: Provost, Muir College
2126 Humanities and Social Sciences Building

THE WRITING PROGRAM

OFFICE: 2346 Humanities and Social Sciences Building, Muir College
(858) 534-2522
<http://muir.ucsd.edu/muir-writing>

The Muir College Writing Program is a sequence of courses in critical thinking and writing during which students must advance beyond the basic competency expected at entrance to understand and write discourse acceptable at the university level. Even when faced with challenging topics, students must demonstrate the ability to comprehend textual arguments at more than a superficial level; their writing must exhibit an understanding of academic arguments including focused theses, systematic methods of analysis and argumentation, awareness of audience, strong organization and development, clear presentation of ideas, appropriate syntax and diction, and—needless to say—correct grammar and usage.

To achieve these ends, the courses focus on principles of analysis and reasoned argumentation. Students will learn to identify underlying assumptions and values in arguments from such fields as the sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and the humanities. They will then write reasoned arguments of their own. Students will also write annotated bibliographies, paper proposals, and research papers as appropriate. In addition, students learn to monitor and adapt their own writing processes. Since the ability to evaluate one's own writing and carry out appropriate revision strategies is crucial to effective writing and argument, all students are required to revise their papers several times. Attention is devoted to developing skill in evaluation and revision in classes and in individual conferences with instructors. Sections of MCWP 50 vary in theme and content, giving students the opportunity to write in areas that interest them or that may be relevant to their major fields. (Descriptions of the MCWP 50 sections are available each quarter in the Muir Writing Program office during pre-enrollment.)

Students are required to take both MCWP 40 and MCWP 50 for a letter grade in their first year of residence at the college. All transfer students, upon satisfaction of Subject A, must take MCWP 40 and MCWP 50 in their first year of residence. In cases where more than one quarter of practice is needed to prepare a student for MCWP 50, an IP grade is given in MCWP 40, and the student takes MCWP 41. MCWP 41 is then followed by MCWP 50. Completion of the sequence allows students to meet the Muir College writing requirement.

IGETC and TAG certified transfer students: Please contact the Muir Writing Program Office.

199. Muir Special Project (4-16)

A course of independent work on a research or creative project to satisfy a Muir graduation requirement. (Only Muir students who have had Muir Special Project proposals approved may enroll in this course.) Students wishing to enroll must submit a written request with a description of the project. (Muir students must submit the Muir Special Project 199 form to the major advisor and to the Office of the Provost by the seventh week of the quarter prior to the quarter in which the 199 is to be undertaken. For information on other requirements, consult the provost's office.) **Prerequisites:** upper-division status, approval by project advisor and by provost. (Letter grades only.)

MCWP 40. Critical Writing (4)

First course of sequence in university reading and writing which satisfies the Muir College graduation requirement in writing. Required of all Muir College first-year students and of transfer students who have not completed a comparable course elsewhere. MCWP 40 introduces students to the basic elements of argument and analysis. Students engage in close reading of texts, weekly writing and revision, and individual conferences. Course must be taken for a letter grade. Those who need additional work to prepare for MCWP 50 will be given a grade of IP and will be required to take MCWP 41. **Prerequisite:** satisfaction of the UC Entry Level Writing requirement.

MCWP 41. Special Study in Writing (4)

An individualized writing class including both class discussion and tutorials. Students confer individually with instructors on a regular weekly basis to talk about writing problems. The course is designed for students who have taken MCWP 40 or its equivalent but need additional writing practice to prepare for MCWP 50. MCWP 41 does not satisfy the first part of the Muir Writing requirement. MCWP 41 must be taken for a letter grade and must be taken within two quarters of MCWP 40. **Prerequisite:** MCWP 40 or its equivalent.

MCWP 50. Critical Writing (4)

Second course of sequence in reading and writing which satisfies the Muir College graduation requirement in writing. Required of all Muir College first-year students and of transfer students. MCWP 50 focuses on advanced skills of argument and analysis. Students engage in close reading of texts, weekly writing and revision, and individual conferences. Course must be taken for a letter grade. **Prerequisite:** satisfaction of MCWP 40 requirement or completion of TAG or IGETC agreement.

MCWP 125. Argument and Analysis (4)

An advanced course in argumentation and analysis, with particular attention both to constructing arguments and analyzing the logic and rhetoric of others' arguments. Students will engage in close reading of texts, weekly writing and revision, and individual conferences. A course specially designed for and required of transfer students who enter Muir College under the aegis of TAG or IGETC. **Prerequisite:** departmental approval.

