The Program in Writing and Rhetoric offers courses that fulfill the University’s D.E.C. category A English Composition requirement. The program also provides electives for students who want to explore writing in different contexts and enhance their proficiency in academic writing.

The philosophy of the University’s Program in Writing and Rhetoric is that writing is an ongoing process as well as a finished product. Because writing well requires re-thinking and re-writing, the program emphasizes revision. Courses require multiple drafts of all papers submitted for the final writing portfolio.

Writing and Rhetoric courses stress collaborative learning in the classroom and are designed as workshops. Students work in small groups to learn aspects of writing analysis and criticism to better analyze their own writing as well as the writing of fellow students. By learning how to analyze their writing, students learn to improve their writing. All group work is supervised by writing instructors experienced in workshop teaching and in critical commentary on student writing. The primary goal of all writing courses is effective communication, orally and in writing.

Facilities
The Writing Center
The Writing Center provides free, individual help with writing to all members of the University community, including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. Tutors assist with writing projects ranging from freshman composition essays to dissertation proposals. Tutors receive ongoing training in all aspects of the teaching of writing and are prepared to mentor a whole host of issues (e.g., getting started, developing arguments, revising, editing, learning techniques for editing and proofreading, understanding specific aspects of grammar, and addressing the needs of English as a second language students). Although the Center does not provide proofreading or copyediting services, the tutors are always willing to teach strategies to help writers eliminate error on their own.

Sessions generally take three forms: weekly appointments with the same tutor that students can extend through the semester; drop-in sessions that depend on the availability of tutors, and e-tutoring sessions that students can access through the Center’s Web site at http://www.stonybrook.edu/writrhet. All tutoring sessions are approximately 50 minutes long.

For hours of operation or to schedule an appointment, call (631) 632-7405.
Electronic Writing Classrooms

The Program in Writing and Rhetoric has two computer labs that are used for instructional purposes. The Life Sciences EWC, located in L-112, contains 26 personal computers. The History EWC, located in SBS S316, has 22 PCs. Both are open to scheduled classes only. MS Office, Dreamweaver, and Photoshop, along with teaching and Internet tools, are installed on all machines, and both labs have projection capability and access to networked laser-quality printing. Class times are posted at http://www.sunysb.edu/writrhet.

Placement

The Program in Writing and Rhetoric offers a placement examination, given at orientation and during Prime Time, to determine the first writing course a student must take. All incoming freshmen are required to take this placement examination. Transfer students must take the examination if they have not satisfied either Entry Skill 2, Basic Writing Competence, or D.E.C. category A, English Composition. Students may not retake the examination. Transferred composition courses are automatically evaluated by the Transfer Office for applicability to Skill 2 and D.E.C. A. The placement examination result does not affect the number of credits transferred or the transfer evaluation.

Placement Level 1:
Required Course: ESL 192, for students who would benefit from intensive work on basic sentence structure and paragraph development.

Placement Level 2:
Required Course: ESL 193, for students who would benefit from work on sentence construction; students improve skills in descriptive and argumentative writing.

Placement Level 3:
Satisfies Skill 2 Basic Writing Competence.
Required Course: WRT 101, for students whose composition skills reveal appropriate preparation. Students develop fluency and correctness and are introduced to academic writing.

Placement Level 4:
Satisfies Skill 2 Basic Writing Competence.
Required Course: WRT 102, for students who composition skills are strong. Students learn strategies for completing extended writing assignments at the University.

Placement Level 5:
Satisfies Skill 2 Basic Writing Competence.
Required Course: WRT 103, for students whose composition skills are exceptional. Students engage in in-depth practice with specific types of academic writing.

Courses Offered in Writing

See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.

WRT 101-A1 Introductory Writing Workshop
WRT 102-A2 Intermediate Writing Workshop A
WRT 103-A2 Intermediate Writing Workshop B
WRT 201 Writing in the Disciplines: Special Topics
WRT 381 Advanced Analytic and Argumentative Writing
WRT 392 Theories and Methods of Mentoring Writers
WRT 487 Independent Project
WRT 488 Internship