WRITING INTENSIVE QUICK GUIDE

What is Writing Intensive (WI)?
Writing Intensive is a new requirement at Otterbein. It requires that current (2012-13) freshmen and sophomores take two WI courses before they graduate. Freshmen from fall 2013 on will need to take three WI courses. The first, foundational WI course—which all students are already required to take their freshman year—is Integrative Studies 1500: Identity Projects. This theme-based composition and literature course provides writing instruction and is typically taught by members of the English department. Along with writing instruction in a designated composition course, Otterbein’s Writing Intensive requirement also emphasizes writing in the disciplines. Each discipline has its own distinct writing conventions, style, and format, which students can only learn in courses in that discipline. Each student will thus take at least one WI course in their major, which will connect writing goals closely to disciplinary outcomes.

Here are the specifics of the requirement:

--The fall 2011 and fall 2012 freshman classes (i.e. students who are freshmen and sophomores in school year 2012-13) are required to take TWO Writing Intensive classes over their years at Otterbein:

1) Integrative Studies 1500: the first-year writing seminar already required of all students. All IS 1500 sections are designated WI. They are typically taught by members of the English department. Students take this course fall or spring of freshman year.

2) A disciplinary course in the student’s major that carries the WI designation.

--Starting with the fall 2013 freshman class, all students will be required to take THREE Writing Intensive courses. They'll take the two listed above, plus:

3) A third WI course that might come from several sources: a WI course from the student’s double major; a WI course from the student’s minor; an INST course designated as WI; an elective WI course. Because no students currently at Otterbein are affected by this requirement (yet!), WI Advisory has chosen to focus first on the WI courses in the majors. So for current freshmen and sophomores, your only real job is to make sure they take a WI course in their major.

FAQ from students about Writing Intensive:

Who has to take WI courses, and how many WI courses do they have to take?

All Otterbein University students have to take WI courses, no matter what their major. Current (2012-13) freshmen and sophomores need to take two WI courses: IS 1500 and a WI-designated course in the student’s major. Beginning with fall 2013 freshmen, all Otterbein students will need to take three WI courses: IS 1500, a WI-designated course in the major, and a third WI course that could come from a variety of sources (a second WI in the major, a double major, a minor, a WI elective, an additional WI course in INST, etc.). Students should check to see what WI course(s) are part of their major.
When should I take my WI courses?

Students should take IS 1500 during freshman year. The other WI course(s) can be taken at any time during or after (IS 1500 is a pre- or co-requisite to any other WI courses). The different majors will make their own decisions about when students take the WI course(s) in the major.

Can I transfer in another WI course from another institution?

Possibly, if it meets the same goals and outcomes as Otterbein’s WI courses. You will have to submit a copy of the syllabus from the course you took to the Writing Intensive Advisory Subcommittee, which will then determine whether the course meets a WI requirement.

Will WI courses be offered over J-term?

No. Because a Writing Intensive course requires time for revision, Otterbein will not allow J-term WI courses. This is true for IS 1500 as well as for WI courses in the majors.

What if I have a double major or minor?

If a student is a double major, they’ll end up taking a WI in each major (which is fine). When the three-course requirement eventually kicks in, double majors will get their third WI course from their second major.

Minors may or may not end up getting WI in the minor – just depends on where departments locate their WI course and if it’s part of the minor.

Are any of the INST courses going to be WI?

All IS 1500 courses are of course Writing Intensive and fulfill the first of the three required WI courses. At the moment no other INST courses are WI, but starting next year, when students have to take three WI courses, there are likely to be some upper-level INST courses that will go as WI.

Please contact WI Advisory Chair Margaret Koehler (mkoehler@otterbein.edu) with any additional questions.
2013-14 Writing Intensive offerings

All sections of INST 1500, both fall and spring.

Fall 2013:
BIO 3998. Sarah Bouchard. Time TBA.
CHEM 2810. Joan Esson. Time TBA.
COMM 2000. Kerry Strayer. MWF 1:00-2:00.
EDUC 2600. Carrie Scheckelhoff. MWF 8:00-9:00.
EDUC 3850. Kristin Reninger. TR 8:00-9:30.
ENG 4000. Phyllis Burns. Time TBA
ENG 4010. Shannon Lakanen. Time TBA.
MATH 3500. Tom James. TR 9:45-11:15
NURS 4400. Ann Teske and Kay Ball. Time TBA.
PHIL 4000. Stephanie Patridge. TR 9:45-11:15.
RELG 4000. Stephanie Patridge. TR 9:45-11:15.
SOAN 4000. Miranda Hallett. TR 1:15-2:45.
THR 3200. Christina Kirk. MWF 3:30-5.
THR 3200. Christina Kirk. TR 11:15-1:00.

Spring 2014:
EDUC 2600. Grace McDaniel. TR 11:30-1:00
EDUC 3850. Instructor TBA. Time TBA.
ENG 4000. Phyllis Burns. Time TBA
ENG 4010. Shannon Lakanen. Time TBA.
EQSC 4100. Bruce Mandeville. Time TBA.
GLST 1000. Instructor TBA. MWF 2:00-3:00.
HIST 2100. Instructor TBA. TR 8-9:30.
MATH 3000. Ryan Berndt. MWF 1:00-2:00
MATH 3370. Zhen Huang. MWF 10:30-11:30.
PHIL 4000. Stephanie Patridge. TR 9:45-11:15.
PHYS 3500. Aaron Reinhard. TR 9:45-11:15.
RELG 4000. Stephanie Patridge. TR 9:45-11:15.
SMGT 3800. Instructor TBA. TR 11:30-1.