MVC Writing Intensive Criteria

For major discipline programs

All courses designated for majors as writing intensive (WI) must meet the following criteria:

Courses should

1. have no more than 25 students enrolled. (MLA recommendation)

2. be taught by regular full-time faculty (adjunct faculty with division approval only).

3. assign no less than 15 pages /4500 words per term.

   Instructors may choose the type and frequency of writing assignments. Writing includes all written activities that represent the recognized means of communication within a discipline. In the social sciences and humanities, writing may (most often) take the form of written test questions, papers, essays, journals, etc. In the mathematical and physical sciences, writing may be in the form of mathematical proofs, equations, logical statements, problem-solving routes including explaining diagrams, flow-charts etc.

4. assess the students' ability to write within the discipline. Writing assignments should make up no less than 50% of the overall grade (see #9 below).

Instructors will be required to

5. provide revision help and feedback on no less than 5 pages/1500 words. Students should be given time to revise (after instructor feedback) before submitting those 5 pages of written work.

6. monitor students and create a course policy for a student's grade to be affected if they do not visit the Learning Center and meet with a tutor upon instructor's request.

The Committee recommends (at the discretion of the instructor)

7. frequent in-class writing asking students to respond to a critical content question that allows for more than one possible answer.

8. peer revision workshops on written work.

9. emphasis on "rethinking" type of revision and feedback in addition to documentation style, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics help from the instructor.

10. In the case of multiple sections, periodic "norming" sessions (calibration) among various instructors of a given course to establish a consistent set of expectations for student writing competency at the appropriate level in the discipline. (Ask WAC representative for procedural advice).

Student Learning Outcome
Demonstrate effective communication skills