

EPSA

**Resolution on the Establishment of Junior-Composition Equivalency (JE)
Courses**

Faculty Senate, June 6, 2011

First Reading

Whereas,

The University, through its Tier I General Education writing curriculum, is committed to developing undergraduates who can communicate in writing with clarity and precision;

Whereas,

There will be a demonstrated need for additional Junior-level writing courses as we move to semesters, since there are insufficient number of Junior Composition courses to fill demand;

Whereas,

It is the responsibility of the University Curriculum Council to establish guidelines for the creation and continued health of the curriculum;

Be It Resolved:

That UCC establish a category of composition courses at the junior undergraduate level called Junior Composition Equivalency courses (JE), and that departments and schools be encouraged to create such courses in their major curricula. These courses will meet the requirements outlined below. It is also expected that UCC will create a means of monitoring all J- and JE-composition courses at regular intervals so that each course requires at least the minimum quantity and quality of writing as specified below:

Completing the Junior-Level Composition Requirement

1. Students can complete the university's junior-level composition requirement by passing an approved "J" course, by passing two "JE" courses within their program of study, or by passing one "JE" course within their program of study and one "JE" course outside their program of study as approved by their department or school.

General Criteria for "JE" Courses

1. The aims of the course are sufficiently broad to justify its status as a writing course that fulfills a general education requirement.

2. The course should be a requirement or an elective within a major and must be taught at least once in either fall or spring semester.
3. Each “JE” course must have a minimum of 2 semester credit hours.
4. Pre-requisites for “JE” courses should be appropriate for junior-level students.
5. Writing assignments with varying purposes and different forms of writing appropriate to the department or school’s discipline may be required.
6. Enrollments for such courses typically will be limited to 25 students to permit rigorous evaluation of students’ writing. Departments and schools may request an exemption to this criterion. An example of an exemption request would be a department or school that plans to teach a “JE” course in a large lecture format that would offer 4 break-out sections with no more than 25 students in each section.
7. Instructors for “JE” courses should be dedicated both to teaching the craft of writing in their disciplines and to helping students achieve higher levels of competence as writers.
8. Instruction in writing and evaluation of writing are significant parts of the “JE” course and specified as such on the syllabus. The typical expectations are that (a) students write regularly during the term, (b) a specific percentage of class time is devoted to discussions of writing, (c) students produce 10/15 pages of original writing, (d) students have the opportunity to revise and submit written work, and (e) peer critique, where appropriate, is used as a pedagogical strategy.
9. Two courses within a program of study that satisfy the above criteria for “JE” courses must be passed to fulfill the university’s junior-level composition requirement.
10. The Individual Course Committee of the University Curriculum Council is charged with reviewing and approving “JE” courses.