

English 101: Foundations of Writing & Rhetoric Credit for Prior Learning

All Minnesota State University, Mankato undergraduate students are required to earn credit for General Education Category 1A, English Composition. Most students fulfill this graduation requirement by passing English 101: Foundations of Writing & Rhetoric (4 credits) with a grade of “C” or better. The course description and learning objectives for English 101 read as follows:

First-Year Writing (ENG 101) or "Foundations of Writing & Rhetoric" is a process writing course. Students in this course approach writing as a subject of study by investigating how writing works across a variety of contexts. Most Minnesota State Mankato students take this course during their first two years of college. As a matter of best practice, we strongly encourage students to take ENG 101 during their first two semesters.

In this course, students will investigate how writing works by:

1. Increasing genre awareness, rhetorical knowledge, and use of multimodalities
2. Exploring language variation and multiliteracies by context
3. Developing information literacy through primary and secondary research
4. Reflecting on writing processes and labor
5. Collaborating to create and revise texts.

Students who wish to transfer credits or demonstrate that they have achieved the English 101 learning objectives through other means should review the options in this document.

Transfer Credit for English 101

If a student believes one or more courses for which they earned credit at another college or university meets the learning objectives for English 101, that student should send the course syllabus(es) to the English Department Chair. The Chair and the Director of First-Year Writing will review the syllabus to determine whether the learning outcomes align with those of English 101 at MNSU, Mankato.

Portfolio Credit for English 101

If a student believes they have achieved the course learning objectives for English 101 through other means, such as writing they have done in other academic, workplace, or civic contexts, the student should complete the following steps:

- Contact the English Department Administrative Assistant, Elizabeth Olmanson, to express your interest in earning credit for prior learning. Email elizabeth.olmanson@mnsu.edu or visit Armstrong Hall 230.
- Complete the registration form (including the appropriate signatures) and return the form along with payment of \$140 (\$35/credit x 4 credits) to the Cashier’s Office.
- Return the paid registration form to the English Department.

Once a student has initiated the credit for prior learning process by returning the paid registration form, the Director of First-Year writing will contact the student to request a portfolio containing evidence that the student has achieved the English 101 learning outcomes.

Portfolio Requirements

Students looking to earn credit for prior learning must submit a portfolio containing the following items to the Director of First-Year Writing:

- 10–15 double-spaced pages of polished written and/or multimodal text, composed by the student in any learning context, which together demonstrate the student has achieved the English 101 learning outcomes; and
- a 600–900 word written or multimodal reflection, composed by the student, in which the student explains how the writing included in the portfolio fulfills each of the five English 101 learning outcomes.

Students must make the rhetorical choice of how to compose their portfolio. They could host their writing in a website, a D2L ePortfolio, traditional written text, or any other mode they find appropriate for the context of English 101, given the course description and learning outcomes. Portfolio readers (namely, the Director of First-Year Writing) will be assessing the portfolio holistically based on the student's evidence and explanations of their prior learning as it relates to the five English 101 learning outcomes.

Portfolios are reviewed with 4 weeks of submission during the academic year only. Portfolios submitted during summer or winter breaks will be reviewed within 4 weeks of the start of the new semester. If a student's portfolio is accepted for credit, the student is not required to take English 101 upon graduation. If a student's portfolio is *not* accepted for credit, the student must enroll in and pass English 101 with a grade of "C" or better to graduate. Portfolio decisions may not be appealed or revised. The Cashier's Office does not issue refunds for students whose portfolios are not accepted for credit.