

AY 2017-18 Summary of Key Evidence for UCORE: English 101 Pilot Holistic Skills Assessment Project

Background

English 101 (College Composition) helps satisfy UCORE's Foundational Competency Written Communication course [WRTG] requirement. As described in the WSU Catalog, UCORE [WRTG] courses “require students to develop and express ideas clearly, concisely, and effectively in writing. Using strategic assignments and aligned evaluation criteria, [WRTG] courses develop a student’s understanding of the principles and elements of effective written communication through applied practice, self-evaluation, and revision.”

The WSU Composition Program endeavors to prepare students for composing a variety of texts that will support their undergraduate careers as well as their lifelong participation in various communities. All English 101 course sections are portfolio-based and the portfolio is the primary means for evaluating student work in the composition program at WSU because it honors both the processes and products of writing. Portfolios must include revised drafts of at least three of the four major projects and must include the major research project. Two of these projects must illustrate source-based composing. The portfolio must include final drafts as well as earlier drafts with teacher feedback. The requirements of each project included in the portfolio is determined by the specifics outlined in each of the assignments.

Pilot Holistic Skills Assessment

The English 101 Pilot Holistic Skills Assessment is built on the longstanding practice of portfolio review sessions and discussion by English 101 instructors. AY 2017-18 was the first year of the English 101 Holistic Skills Assessment. The assessment intended to gauge student learning on written communication (a sub-goal of the Communication learning goal) for UCORE, as well as provide English 101 instructors with information for program development. English 101 instructors were asked to submit a short report on holistic student achievement of course outcomes, as demonstrated in students’ final portfolios. In AY 2017-18, 36 reports were submitted for 65 English 101 sections on the Pullman, Vancouver, and Tri-Cities campuses, which represented more than 1,300 students and roughly 46% of students enrolled in English 101. Roughly 79% of students enrolled in all AY 2017-18 English 101 sections were first-year students.

Results

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION: Results from the AY 2017-18 English 101 Pilot Holistic Skills Assessment indicated that **81%** of students exceeded or met expectations for *written communication* at a first-year undergraduate level at the end of their English 101 [WRTG] course.

