

# Summary of Key Evidence for UCORE: AY 2018-19 English 101 Holistic Skills Assessment

## UCORE Assessment | Washington State University

### 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 prepares students for composing a variety of texts that will support their learning both inside and outside the academy. All English 101 course sections are portfolio-based and the portfolio is the primary means for evaluating student work because it honors both the processes and products of writing. Portfolios must include the research essay, another source-based essay, and at least one other revised paper. The portfolio must include final drafts as well as earlier drafts with instructor feedback. The specific requirements of each project included in the portfolio are determined by individual instructors while attending to course outcomes.

### English 101 Holistic Skills Assessment

The English 101 Holistic Skills Assessment, collected beginning in Fall 2017, is built on the longstanding practice of portfolio review sessions and discussion by English 101 instructors. The assessment is intended to gauge student learning in written communication (a sub-goal of the Communication learning goal) for UCORE, as well as to 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 2018-19, 41 reports were submitted for 76 English 101 sections on the Pullman, Vancouver, and Tri-Cities campuses, which represented more than 1,600 students and roughly 57% of students enrolled in English 101. Roughly 80% of students enrolled in all AY 2018-19 English 101 sections were first-year students.

### Results

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATION:** Results from the AY 2018-19 English 101 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.

