

## Writing Programs Overview

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### First-Year Composition

First-year composition at Clemson University is a rhetorically based program that typically serves 2,500 students each year in sections of not more than 19 students. The course challenges students to engage with multiple audiences, purposes, and genres, and incorporates considerations of digital and visual culture. The course includes four major assignments:

- ✧ *Community-based writing* that participates in a civic dialogue.
- ✧ *University culture writing* that responds to and reflects on intellectual/cultural events on campus.
- ✧ *Inquiry-based research paper* that makes a persuasive argument based on research about a question.
- ✧ *Electronic portfolio* that combines written and visual communication to reflect on the students' development as writers.

In addition to the traditional three-hour class, students also attend a one-hour lab in which they revise and edit their writing, reflect on their development as writers, and learn about the more technical aspects of the electronic portfolio.

### Advanced Writing

The Advanced Writing Program includes English 304 (Business Writing) and English 314 (Technical Writing), which enroll approximately 2,800 students each year in 130 sections with a maximum of 19 students per section. The courses are required by 29 degree programs in sciences, engineering, business, social science, and education. In a tribute to the quality of the program, the number of majors requiring the course increased as departments reviewed their curricula in 2004.

The courses are intended to prepare students for workplace writing. Most sections are paired with a local technical or business professional who visits the class to talk about ways writing functions in the technical workplace. Some of the sections feature client-based projects, in which the students work in teams to produce deliverables needed by local and campus clients. The Advanced Writing Program, which includes the Technical Writing and Business Writing courses, received the 2004 Writing Program Certificate of Excellence from CCCC. For more information about the program, including faculty training and program assessment, see [www.clemson.edu/caah/english/advanced\\_writing/index.htm](http://www.clemson.edu/caah/english/advanced_writing/index.htm)

### Communication Across the Curriculum

The Pearce Center for Professional Communication ([www.clemson.edu/caah/pearce/](http://www.clemson.edu/caah/pearce/)) is the home of Communication Across the Curriculum at Clemson University. The Pearce Center's mission is to promote communication-intensive pedagogy across the curriculum as a way to enhance both teaching and learning. The Center sponsors workshops for faculty, celebratory events to highlight faculty and student achievements, collaborative projects engaging writing faculty and faculty from other disciplines, and other activities. A current project is Teaching and Learning Creatively (an expansion of a previous project: Poetry Across the Curriculum) which encourages faculty to ask students to respond creatively to the content of their courses. Faculty gather regularly to hear pedagogical ideas and the results of research.

Clemson University is the site of the Eighth International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference, which will be held this summer (May 18-20). Please see [www.clemson.edu/caah/Pearce/wac2006/](http://www.clemson.edu/caah/Pearce/wac2006/) For the fifth straight year, *US News & World Report (2006)* named Clemson as one of the top universities in the country for promoting writing across the disciplines.

### Studio for Student Communication

At Clemson University, the Writing Center is now a part of the Class of 1941 Studio for Student Communication, which is two years old. The Studio is a corporate-like space with the latest communication technologies. It hosts classes and workshops, and also offers drop-in assistance and space for collaborative teams and individuals to work on their own. See [www.clemson.edu/1941studio/](http://www.clemson.edu/1941studio/)

### And Beyond

Undergraduate and graduate students who want more experience with technical communication can take English 490/690 (Advanced Technical and Business Writing). Graduate students with English as a second language can take a special section of English 314 (Technical Writing) that focuses on their needs. Clemson University also offers a Writing and Publication Studies concentration in the English BA degree, as well as an MA in Professional Communication and a Ph.D. in Rhetorics, Communication, and Information Design. Writing faculty at Clemson teach in, research in, and administer all of these programs.