

ACADEMIC SKILLS AND GENERAL STUDIES DIVISION**CONTACTS AND COMMITMENT:**

619-4240, Division Dean

619-4331, Secretary

To offer curriculum and instructional methods that guide each learner to develop the skills and attitudes leading to academic and career success.

ACSK 0063 INTERMEDIATE COMPOSITION

The study and practice of sentence structure rules, critical thinking skills, writing as a step by step process, and basic grammar. Students will learn to express ideas and opinions in clear, organized paragraphs and essays. Students will also learn and use word processing as it applies to academic writing. Successful completion allows a student to enter English Composition I. PREREQUISITE: Beginning Writing (ACSK 0053) with a C or better or minimum placement score: ACT-13, or ASSET-36, or COMPASS-42.

CREDIT HOURS:

3 credit hours, none counting toward any degree requirements. Course grade is computed in GPA.

TARGET AUDIENCE AND TRANSFER:

This non-transfer course is intended for college students who have demonstrated a need to review the writing process and structure. The exit criteria for Intermediate Composition is a grade of "C" or better.

CORE COURSE OBJECTIVES:

All NWACC Intermediate Composition sections establish that a successful student will be able to

1. Use grammar rules in improving proofreading techniques.
2. Write good sentences and analyze sentence components for clarity, variety, and coherence.
3. Demonstrate techniques for writing structured and unified paragraphs.
4. Demonstrate techniques for writing a multi-paragraph essay through a focused thesis statement.
5. Use specific detail to support the thesis for expository writing.
6. Choose standard English for writing assignments.

REQUIRED/OPTIONAL TEXTS AND STUDENT RESOURCES:

Required: Mosiacs---Focusing on Paragraphs in Context. Flachmann. Prentice Hall, 2002

Additionally from NWACC:

1. Reference materials, Internet, and study strategy and time management videos in NWACC's Library.
2. NWACC's Life Development Center counseling service and programs.
3. Computer access to word processing, internet, and e-mail in the Learning Lab.
4. Writing Center located in the MAT building has composition faculty with expertise to read, react, and direct writers in the writing process.

REQUIRED FORMS OF ASSESSMENT:

In all sections of Intermediate Composition a divisional pre-diagnostic is given in the first week of class. Its purpose is to establish incoming skill relative to course success. A parallel post-diagnostic is given before or during the final exam period at the end of the semester. Grouped statistics regarding overall student learning in the course and developmental program are based on these tools. In addition, an ACSK Developmental Performance Report indicates that students who successfully complete Intermediate Composition succeed in Composition I at a rate comparable to that of students placed directly into Composition I.

TOPICS (REQUIRED COVERAGE):

Grammar and Mechanics: capitalization, spelling, forming plurals, punctuation, pronouns, verbs (action and linking) objects and complements, dangling and misplaced modifiers;

Usage and Organization: sentence structure, sentence errors, effective sentences, wordiness, levels of usage, critical thinking and fallacies in logic, topic sentences, thesis statements, paragraph and essay development, paragraph and essay organization, introductions and conclusions. In addition, students can expect the following:

- to write a minimum of 5000 words during the semester;
- In-class writing will occur at least 5 times through the semester. Paragraphs or 3-paragraph or 5-paragraph essays provide successful formats for this practice;
- Final copies of major papers must be typed on a word processor and saved on a disk, and students must show confidence in use of a word processing program;
- Four of the major writing assignments will come from examples in the text: narrative, descriptive (person and place), comparison-contrast, illustrating, reporting, process, persuasion\argument.
- Plagiarism is dishonest. Plagiarized work receives an automatic grade of zero; culpable students may face suspension or dismissal. Cheating on other assignments or exams will cause an automatic grade of zero. See the NWACC handbook for college regulations and action on academic dishonesty, academic misconduct, and other college policies pertaining to the privilege of participating in higher education.
- At least one hands-on visit to the library during class time to introduce its use and resources for academic studies.

OPTIONAL COVERAGE:

Use web sites with grammar practice, worksheets, and text chapters for ESL students who need practice in correcting errors common to second language writers.
