Welcome to Goucher’s Writing Program and the Goucher Community of Writers!

At Goucher College, we see ourselves as a community of writers who value learning, self-expression, and diversity. Members of our writing community support one another even as we recognize our differences, and we hope that all members of our community will develop the creativity, innovation and inherent joy that is the art of academic writing, by learning to engage ourselves critically as readers, thinkers and writers.

All incoming first-year students are required to take 4-6 credits of writing instructions. (Transfer students have different requirements – please see below.) We have established three (3) different levels of writing at Goucher. Using our Directed Self-Placement system, please decide which level best suits your writing abilities. Remember that our advisors, professors, and mentors are available to discuss your options at any time.

Level S: Standard (6 credit requirement)
Students want extra support, so that they can be more confident writers.

Level A: Advanced (4 credit requirement)
Students feel confident and capable as writers. They are able to sustain an argument over several pages and conduct research.

Level H: Honors (4 credit requirement)
Students are confident and capable writers, have a developed narrative voice, and want additional challenges. (Please note that the Honors sections – WRT 181H – will be offered in SP17.)

Getting Started with Directed Self-Placement

It’s important to answer these questions honestly. If you choose a course that is below your level, you will probably be bored. And if you choose a course that is too difficult, you will probably be frustrated. Remember that you will apply for College Writing Proficiency (CWP) in your sophomore year. CWP is a requirement for graduation: you want to get the most out of your first year writing classes so that you will be able to earn CWP in the future. Writing is a 4-year commitment at Goucher; the Writing Program oversees a 4-year vertical curriculum.

Please answer the following questions – Yes (Y) or No (N):

1. I am confident in my abilities as a writer.
2. Writing assignments in general do not cause me to feel anxious. I have strategies in mind when I approach any writing prompt. Complex assignments do not scare me.
3. I can express myself accurately using standard edited American English.
4. I had positive experiences with writing and English classes in high school.
5. I was challenged as a writer in high school, and I learned how to write both long and short papers.
6. I enjoy reading non-fiction texts; I view the more difficult texts as enjoyable challenges.
7. I rarely need extra time to work on an assignment.
8. I rarely feel “blocked” as a writer.
9. I enjoy the challenge of conducting secondary research and incorporating those texts appropriately into my own projects.
10. I earned a 4 or a 5 on the AP English exam.

Scoring:

- If you answered all 10 questions Y, then you will enjoy the challenge of Level H. *
- If you answered 8-10 questions Y, then you should choose between Level A and Level H.*
- If you answered 6-7 questions Y, then you will be happiest in Level A.
- If you answered 0-5 questions Y, then you should take advantage of the support offered in Level S.

*HONORS PLACEMENT

- Students who wish to be considered for the Honors sections must submit a graded paper to Charlee Sterling either via email (charlee.sterling@goucher.edu) or via US mail:
  Charlee Sterling  
  Goucher College Writing Program  
  1021 Dulaney Valley Rd.  
  Baltimore, MD 21204

- The graded paper does not have to be from an English class, but it should showcase your academic writing. Thank you.

Choosing Your Classes:

**Level S**

Students take WRT 181 in the fall, plus the 1-credit studio WRT 101A. In the spring, they take an additional 1-credit studio, WRT 101B. The 1-credit studios meet once/week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL</th>
<th>SPRING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WRT 181 plus WRT 101A</td>
<td>WRT 101B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Level A**

Students take WRT 181 in either fall or spring. We recommend that students take this course in the fall, unless their schedules do not permit. WRT 181 will be offered in the spring, but there will be fewer sections to choose from.

**Level H**

Honors students will take WRT 181H in SP17.
After you register for your classes:

1. Write a 1-2 page (typed, double-spaced) essay that describes your process for choosing your classes. Take this opportunity to reflect on your history as a writer and reader, as well as your theories or philosophy about writing.
2. Bring this essay to class on the first day.
3. Your instructor will discuss your placement with you. It’s possible that you will be asked to switch sections or add a section at that time. Thank you.

Transfer Students

Transfer students should also take the Directed Self-Placement Quiz. Transfer students who place in Level A or H and who have completed at least one college writing course at another institution are invited to submit portfolios to determine whether or not they have earned CWP or need additional coursework. The portfolio application asks transfer students to discuss their college-level writing courses.

If you have any questions, please contact the Director of the Writing Program, Phaye Poliakoff-Chen via email: phaye.poliakoff-chen@goucher.edu.

Thank you and welcome to Goucher College!