Criteria for Departmental Writing Programs

GRADUATED RESEARCH LITERACY OUTCOMES

(from Academic Writing Program Advisory Board, February 2004)

UPPER-LEVEL OUTCOMES – 300- level courses

1. The student will understand how the scholarly conversation works in a given discipline, and apply this knowledge to the selection of resources.
   a. Identify the differences between primary and secondary research in the discipline (investigation methods, standards).
   b. Understand what is considered “scholarly” research in the discipline (including the role of peer-review).
   c. Be able to identify key topics, authors, publishers, and/or periodicals in a subject or in a discipline.
   d. Choose a research topic appropriate to the student’s level of knowledge in the discipline or subject area.

2. The student will identify where and how to search for advanced and/or subject-specific resources.
   a. Identify and use subject-specific reference sources.
   b. Identify the major research databases of a discipline.
   c. Understand that the format of the information is irrelevant in the pursuit of knowledge.
   d. Understand how to utilize controlled vocabulary and advanced searching methods in major research databases.
   e. Utilize informal and formal “expert” searching methods (e.g., citation referencing, bibliographies, or using the “invisible web”).
   f. Understand and utilize unique types of resources or information important to a field (e.g., case studies, archival materials, gray literature).

3. The student will know how to locate sources beyond Hekman Library.
   a. Understand why and how to search other libraries’ catalogs.
   b. Utilize interlibrary loan effectively.

4. The student will use sources effectively in papers/projects.

   Understand how and why to cite sources in written or oral papers/projects (particularly using publication manuals specific to a discipline or field).