

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).