



# *directed* **SELF PLACEMENT** CHOOSING YOUR FIRST-YEAR WRITING COURSE

Directed Self-Placement is a process through which students, with knowledge and guidance, choose the first-year writing course that best fits their needs and academic plans. Students' reading and writing histories and their degree of comfort with academic writing should also aid in the selection process.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR FIRST-YEAR WRITING COURSE**

One of the only courses required of all students, first-year writing is statistically linked to positive graduation rates. This means that learning to write well will help you graduate in a successful and timely manner.

### **CHOOSING YOUR FIRST-YEAR WRITING COURSE**

To choose your first-year writing course, you will take a survey in D2L. Please follow the instructions provided to you by New Student Programs for accessing the D2L site. Once in the site, please carefully read the opening message. You will take one longer survey that asks you to reflect on your past experiences with writing, and then you will take a shorter survey where you make a choice between ENGL 110: College Writing I, and ENGL 111: College Writing II.

The differences in these two courses is described to the right. Students who score below 75% on the longer survey and who want extra practice and extra time to develop their writing skills in the first year, often choose to start in ENGL 110. This is not a remedial course and counts for General Education credit. We recommend a score on the longer survey of 75% or higher to start in ENGL 111.

The director of writing is available for consultation via email at [rlane@clarion.edu](mailto:rlane@clarion.edu). You may change your first-year writing course prior to registration.

**COURAGEOUS. *confident.* CLARION.**

### **ENGL 110: COLLEGE WRITING I**

- Emphasizes a variety of processes for writing stronger projects: developing ideas, improving structure and gaining confidence.
- Students compose four to five projects in different genres at an estimated three to four pages each and two to four revisions each.
- Students may read 10 pages per week.
- There is no research-writing requirement in ENGL 110. However, because it is a requirement in ENGL 111, you may be introduced to the research process.
- ENGL 110 counts as three elective credits toward your general education requirements.
- You will still need to take ENGL 111 to fulfill your general education requirement in composition.

### **ENGL 111: COLLEGE WRITING II**

- Focus is on working with other writers' texts while developing your own ideas and arguments.
- Students write three to five projects over the course of semester, four to six pages each, with at least one longer project of six-plus pages. Each will have two to four revisions.
- Instead of 10 pages per week, you might read as many as 20 pages per week.
- Conducting research, writing arguments and analyses are integral to the course.
- ENGL 111 fulfills the general education requirement for composition.



**CLARION  
UNIVERSITY**