

PROPOSALS ON COMPOSITION AND ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS
(Revised May 9, 1980)

Basic Proposals
(presented as a package)

- I. The following courses would be eliminated or superseded: E307 (regular and special), E308 (regular and special), E310, E312L/M, E314K, E317. The following courses would be retained but would not satisfy degree requirements in lower-division English, and their prerequisite changed to three hours of English (E306): E314L, E318M.

- II. Degree Requirements (recommended for all undergraduate colleges in the University): 9 hours of English, as at present in most colleges. Plan II requirements unchanged.

- III. Admissions and Enrollment
 - A. Entering students must enroll by May 1, or earlier deadline if practicable. I.e., entering students must accept UT admissions offer by that date.
 - B. Entering students must submit by enrollment deadline their results on the English placement instrument for E306.
 - C. If enrollments of freshman and lower-division transfers continue to climb beyond 1980-1981, the Department will request the President to raise entrance requirements.

- IV. General prerequisites for upper-division English courses will be reduced from 9 to 6 hours of English, with two exceptions. The prerequisite for E325M, Advanced Expository Writing, will be E306, E31__ (Masterworks; see V B below) and E3__ (Writing in Different Disciplines; see V C below). The prerequisite for E3__ (Writing in Different Disciplines) will be 54 hours -- junior standing -- including E306 and E31__ (Masterworks); see V C 1 a and c below.

- V. Courses and Sequence
 - A. E306: Rhetoric and Composition
 1. Content: attention to rhetorical strategies, reading comprehension, and mechanics. Detailed syllabus for AIs; faculty encouraged to work up own materials, with minimum core of expectations to preserve course integrity. Variant readings for Mexican-American sections (as at present) and Black sections (to be investigated), with election of these sections at student's option.

2. Exemptions: SAT Verbal 550 (credit with B) and SAT Verbal 575 (credit with A) cutting scores. These cutting scores are slightly more rigorous than the current cutting scores.
3. Nature and amount of writing: 6-7 major themes based on rhetorical strategies. Emphasis on analytical writing; some experiential writing permitted. Panel grading to be investigated.
4. Class size and format: normal sections with maximum of 25 students, as at present; alternative formats (e.g., large section) invited, as at present, under supervision of FEPC.
5. Remedial students: E506 for SAT Verbal below 353 (bottom 5%) and E406 for SAT Verbal 353-380 (next 10%): these students would take normal sections of E306 but be referred for two hours weekly and one hour weekly, respectively, to a Writing Center in the English Department. The Writing Center can be staffed by six qualified persons at 100% appointment (need not be positions defined as "faculty").
6. Foreign Students: E306Q as at present for students with TOEFL of 550; investigation of new Q courses for students with TOEFL 500-549 and low SAT Verbal.
7. Sections offered: roughly equal numbers of E306 sections in fall and spring semesters, by prearrangement with Dean and President, to prevent fall semester overload on departmental resources.

B. E31__ : Masterworks of Literature (new course)

1. Prerequisites: minimum of 27 hours (sophomore standing), including E306 by course, transfer credit, or placement exemption.
2. Content: readings in one of three alternative subject areas -- World Masterworks, English Masterworks, American Masterworks. Probably anthology courses, details of curriculum to be developed by individual instructor after basic courses are outlined by curriculum committee and approved by English Department. Introduction to major works in the literary tradition, with emphasis on historical, generic, and thematic connections, and attention to the cultural conventions informing individual works. Syllabus for AIs teaching course first time.
3. Exemptions: AP 4 (credit with B) or 5 (credit with A).
4. Class size and format: normal sections of 40 students (as presently with most E314K); alternative formats, especially large-section, invited, under supervision of SLPC.

5. Nature and amount of writing; evaluation: tests (essay, short-answer, and multiple choice) and papers, in variable proportions and numbers, as presently in E314K and E312L/M; guidelines to be developed by SLPC, as presently for E314K.
 6. Foreign students: Q sections or alternative courses to be investigated.
 7. Sections offered: Fall-Spring balance to be determined by distribution of staff capability in other courses, especially E306.
- C. E3___ OR alternative writing course in other department approved by English Department. Third-course requirements to be determined by the individual colleges.
1. E3___: Writing in Different Disciplines (new course).
 - a. Prerequisites: 54 hours (junior standing), including E306 and E31___ (B, above), by course, transfer credit, or placement exemption.
 - b. Content: to be offered in three versions, Writing in the Arts and Humanities, Writing in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, Writing in the Natural Sciences and Technology. Readings to include classic and contemporary expository essays and books in these disciplines, and some selections which concern the social, ethical, and philosophical aspects of the disciplines. Sample course outlines to be developed by committee; syllabus for AI sections.
 - c. Exemptions: SAT Verbal 600 (credit with B), 625 (credit with A) cutting scores; will exempt top ca. 10% by 1979-80 figures. Transfer credit for a composition course beyond E306 satisfies this requirement.
 - d. Nature and amount of writing: ca. 6 major themes, chiefly analytical; experimentation encouraged. Panel grading to be investigated.
 - e. Class size and format: normal sections with maximum of 25 students; alternative formats possible, under supervision of course committee.
 - f. Foreign students: Q sections of one or more of the three versions to be devised by committee.
 2. Writing content course developed by any department and approved by English Department as satisfying this third-level requirement.

Such courses would presumably have E306 and E31___ as prerequisite, and thus would be taken by the student no earlier than the second

half of the sophomore year. Exemptions also subject to approval of English Department.

Colleges that might be interested in developing such courses include Communications (7% of UT matriculations) and Business (23%).

Ancillary Proposals
(presented for separate vote)

- A. Reduce course load for temporary Instructors on 100% appointment to 3 courses per semester.
- B. Encourage AIs and regular faculty from other departments to teach sections of "Writing in Different Disciplines," providing appropriate training and supervision.
- C. To the extent permitted by course enrollments, overall staff capability, TLC calculations, and staffing demands of graduate, upper-division, and specialized courses, assign no more than one section of E306 or E3____ (Writing in Different Disciplines) per semester to tenured or tenure-seeking faculty, and no more than two sections of E306 or E3____ per semester to temporary Instructors.
- D. Provide more systematic supervision of AIs and TAs if regular faculty energies can be released for this purpose by reduction of staffing needs in required English courses.
- E. Develop 12-week long versions of E306, E406, E506 for summer session students.
- F. Develop in outline form a version of E3____ (Writing in Different Disciplines) for Business-oriented students, to be submitted at a later date for departmental approval.
- G. Refine placement criteria for E306 and E3____ (Writing in Different Disciplines) in consultation with Measurement and Evaluation Center.
- H. Request workload weighting of 3-hour organized writing courses (composition at any undergraduate level, creative writing) at 4.5 TLC.
- I. Assuming major reductions of pressure on departmental teaching resources through the implementation of the basic plan, a reduction to 20 students of the maximum class size for undergraduate writing courses (all composition and creative writing courses) will be requested.

- J. Descriptions of E314L options and prerequisites will be distributed to entering freshmen with placement exemption for E306.
- K. Exemption scores, instruments, and substitute courses for English requirements are to be determined by the English Department.
- L. Faculty in foreign language departments will be encouraged to request teaching assignment for E31__, World Masterworks.