

Research Writing **Distribution List**

Description

Students will learn and practice writing and research skills integral to academic, civic, professional, or technical pursuits.

Core Curriculum Objectives

Each course in the distribution list will:

1. Promote critical reasoning through direct instruction and writing activities that allow students to learn about and practice inquiry-based research writing processes.
2. Teach methods of interpretation, synthesis, and critique, and assign writing projects that give students opportunities to apply these skills.
3. Teach students how to construct arguments effectively, use evidence to support arguments, and consider alternative viewpoints; and assign writing activities and writing projects that allow students to apply this knowledge.
4. Teach students to document sources appropriately, accurately, and ethically through summary, paraphrase, and quotation, and assign various writing projects that allow students to apply these skills.
5. Encourage critical reflection through lectures, discussion, reading, and writing assignments to emphasize the ethical dimensions in the choices writers make.
6. Teach and evaluate writing as a recursive process with multiple stages, including drafting, reviewing, revising, editing, and grading with the use of standardizing guides (such as rubrics).

Criteria

- Students will take one 3-hour course from this distribution list.
- Course titles will be “Research Writing: _____”
- Courses may be offered at the 1000 or 2000 level. According to Baylor University’s Undergraduate catalog students should complete this DL before the end of their sophomore year.
- No course in the distribution list may have another writing course as a prerequisite.
- Department Requirement: Departments with research writing courses in which substantive writing instruction, practice, and evaluation are the primary expectations of the course are eligible to propose courses in this distribution list. Faculty should employ effective approaches to teaching writing appropriate to their discipline.

Justification

- “Students will develop the skill of critical reasoning in many ways, including problem-solving, composing essays, and writing lab reports. In doing so, the core curriculum will encourage students to cultivate patience and intellectual humility in the search for truth.”
- “The core curriculum will empower students to engage with current social and political issues intelligently. In addition, it will teach students to communicate effectively through various means such as open and mutually-respectful debate, discussion-based classes, essay writing,

foreign language acquisition, and study abroad. These fundamental and transferable skills will require students to reevaluate their own assumptions.”

Recommended Practices for Departments offering Courses in DL

- Due to substantive grading requirements, course sections are ideally limited to 19 students.
- Faculty who teach research writing courses should be provided continuing education opportunities for training in research writing pedagogy appropriate to their disciplines.