Criteria for Communication Intensive Courses

Philosophy

The purpose of Communication Intensive courses is to help students achieve proficiency in both written and oral communication in a manner that is appropriate to their major discipline. Although CI courses must meet specific criteria, there are many possibilities for how those criteria may be achieved. CI courses may use a range of artistic and technological forms of communication.

All CI courses must help students engage productively, responsibly, and thoughtfully in written and oral communication. CI courses are also intended to be discipline-specific, letting students simultaneously attain communication fluency goals while they learn communication forms most appropriate to their discipline.

Communication Literacy (CL) goals are met by taking English 1010 and English 2010 (CL courses) and two Communication Intensive (CI) courses. Communication Intensive courses are designed to follow, and build upon, English 1010 and English 2010. Therefore all Communication Intensive courses should have English 2010 as a prerequisite.

Communication Intensive Course Criteria

All Communication Intensive courses must:

1. Be an upper division course.
2. Require both written and oral communication.
3. Require a significant quantity of written and oral communication as demonstrated by the outcomes, assignments, and assessment in the course.
4. Have an individual writing component.
5. Incorporate communication/learning components that reinforce effective two-way communication skills appropriate for discipline-specific audiences.
6. Allow for continued improvement through opportunities for revision, and/or multiple assignments.

Communication Intensive courses are encouraged to:

1. Utilize collaborative forms of communication.
2. Be explicit with students about how the discipline communicates and invite them into its ways of communication.
3. Utilize a wide variety of communication forms and media.
4. Incorporate communication activities that are appropriate for a wide variety of disciplinary audiences.

**Communication Intensive Implementation Ideas**

To clarify Communication Intensive requirements listed above, and to encourage thinking “outside the box,” we list some key terms below and suggest a variety of ways to implement them.

**Continual Improvement:**

1. Students may write multiple drafts of a single paper, with the opportunity to implement feedback and suggestions in the final paper.
2. The instructor may assign several papers of the same type. Constructive feedback is provided on the early assignments so students can apply this information to succeeding assignments.
3. The student may be offered the opportunity to revise a paper after it has been graded.

**Feedback:**

1. Feedback is response to student writing in the form of constructive criticism and suggestions for improvement.
2. Feedback can come from peers, the instructor, or Graduate Assistants, Writing Fellows, Undergraduate Teaching Fellows, external audiences, or others.
3. Feedback may be oral or written.

**Oral Communication:**

Students may communicate orally in a wide variety of formats. Some examples include the following:

1. Make a formal presentation to a class or subgroup of a class, an outside audience, or the instructor.
2. Make a formal presentation using video format or other presentation software.
3. Perform in a dramatic presentation or other oral reading.
4. Participate in structured in-class debates with assigned roles.
5. Lead structured discussions synthesizing class materials and audience responses.

**Collaboration:**

1. Collaboration includes an occasion in which students talk to, or work with each other, a client outside the classroom, or an instructor to produce something.
2. Collaboration can include occasions in which students provide feedback on each other’s work.