December 4, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Steering Committee of Academic Governance

FROM: Provost Kim A. Wilcox

RE: Request to Change the Policy for Enrollment in AL 201

I am requesting that the attached change to the policy for enrollment in AL 201 be placed before Faculty Council for their consideration. I have reviewed the deliberations of the University Committee on Undergraduate Education, and endorse the change from the current policy.

Attachments
November 15, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kim Wilcox, Provost
FROM: Linda O. Stanford, Associate Provost for Academic Services
RE: Request to Change the Policy for Enrollment in AL 201

I forward the attached request to you for the next stage of academic governance review. The University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE) considered the request and had no concerns about it.

Attached you will find information concerning the request, including the proposed modifications to the catalog language concerning the policy.

If you have questions, please let me know.

cc: Doug Estry, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of Undergraduate Studies
   Joy Speas, University Curriculum Administrator
MEMORANDUM

To: Linda O. Stanford  
   Associate Provost for Academic Services

Fr: Ryan Sweeder  
   Vice Chairperson, University Committee on Undergraduate Education

Re: Requirements for Tier 1 Writing – Request to Change Policy for Enrollment in AL 201

On October 4, 2012, the University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE) considered a request to change policy for enrollment in AL 201. Associate Provost Estry discussed the request with the committee members.

UCUS, in its consultative capacity to the Provost, had no concerns about the request.

c: Doug Estry  
   Joy Speas

Attachment: Catalog Mark Up – Writing Requirement
Each student must complete the university's writing program requirements as follows:

1. The Tier I writing requirement that consists of either a. or b. below.
   a. one of the following 4-credit Tier I writing courses during the first year: Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures 110, 115, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 195H; Arts and Letters 192 and 192H; or
   b. the developmental writing courses: Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures 0102 and 1004 and one 4-credit Tier I writing course during the first year.

2. Based on the English placement mechanism, a student may be required to complete the developmental writing courses prior to enrolling in a Tier I writing course. The developmental writing courses are administered by the Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures. For additional information, refer to the statement on Academic Placement Tests.

3. New freshmen who have taken the College Board Advanced Placement Examination in English should consult the statement on Academic Placement Tests. Transfer students should consult the statement on Transfer Student Admission.

4. For students who are enrolled in James Madison College, the completion of James Madison College 111 and 112 satisfies the university Tier I writing requirement.

For students who are enrolled in Lyman Briggs College, the completion of Lyman Briggs 133 satisfies the university Tier I writing requirement.

For students who are enrolled in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, the completion of Residential College in the Arts and Humanities 111 and 112 satisfies the university Tier I writing requirement.

5. A student who completes the Tier I writing course with a grade of 0.0 must repeat the course. A student who completes the Tier I writing course with a grade of 1.0 or 1.5 must enroll in the 2-credit writing tutorial (AL 201) concurrently with any IAH course below 211.

6. The Tier II writing requirement for the student's academic major and degree program. This requirement involves writing in the student's discipline and is met by completing either:
   a. one or more 300-400 level Tier II writing courses as specified for the student's academic major and degree program, or
   b. a cluster of 300-400 level courses that involve writing experiences and that are approved as the Tier II writing requirement for the student's academic major and degree program.
September 27, 2012

To: University Committee on Undergraduate Education

From: Douglas W. Estry
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and
Dean of Undergraduate Studies

RE: Requirements for Tier 1 Writing

Request:

We are requesting that the current policy regarding current enrollment in AL 201 be changed to read:

A student who completes the Tier I writing course with a grade of 0.0 must repeat the course.
A student who completes the Tier I writing course with a grade of 1.0 or 1.5 must enroll in the 2-credit writing tutorial (AL 201) concurrently with any IAH course below 311. (see attached)

Rationale:

• Pedagogical changes in the teaching of Tier I writing following the faculties’ development and adoption of grading rubrics have significantly enhanced student success in Tier I writing. This is reflected in the declining number of students enrolling in the course.
• There is no evidence that concurrent enrollment in AL 201 played a significant role in enhancing students’ writing ability.
• It is not cost effective to staff a course that consistently demonstrates low enrollment and serves less than 1% of the total number of students enrolled in Tier 1 writing each year.
• Grades of 1.0 or 1.5 are considered passing. However, should they choose, students with these grades have the option of repeating the course.

History:

With the conversion from quarters to semesters in 1992, the Tier I writing component of the undergraduate general education was limited to one semester of a four (4) credit course in what was then American Thought and Language (ATL) and is now Writing, Rhetoric and American Culture (WRA). In addition, in order to assure a two-semester first-year writing experience, the first course in Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities (IAH 201)—required of all students—was designed to be writing intensive and students were expected to take IAH 201 immediately following the completion of their Tier I writing. At that time, there was concern that students who did not do well in their Tier I writing course—as defined by receiving a grade of less than a 2.0—would not do well in IAH 201 and should be required to either retake or remediate their writing. Therefore, the following policy was implemented:
A student who completes the Tier I writing course with a grade of 0.0 must repeat the course. A student who completes the Tier I writing course with a grade of 1.0 or 1.5 must enroll in the 2 credit writing tutorial (AL 201) concurrently with IAH 201.

Therefore, consistent with the original Integrative Studies policy, AL 201 was designed to augment the specific learning that was occurring in IAH 201. In 2002, the University moved away from requiring all students to take IAH 201 and a range of writing intensive options (IAH 201-210) were designed and the policy was modified to read:

A student who completes the Tier I writing course with a grade of 0.0 must repeat the course. A student who completes the Tier I writing course with a grade of 1.0 or 1.5 must enroll in the 2 credit writing tutorial (AL 201) concurrently with any IAH course below 211.

In reality, not all students took AL 201 as required, some chose to repeat their Tier I writing course while others found ways to enroll in their first semester IAH without taking AL 201 currently. Since the inception of this policy (1992 to present) 932 students have enrolled in AL 201 averaging 54.2 ± 8.2 students/academic year or 27.1 ± 7.2/Fall or Spring semester. The trend line demonstrates decreasing enrollments during this period.