Guidelines for Developing Advanced Composition Courses

Advanced Composition courses are evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Amount of writing done in the course.

Guidelines state that 20-30 pages of original composition should be required. Original composition includes: papers, informal writing done in class or online. Drafts are considered but not double counted (ie: 8 page paper done in 3 drafts would not count as 24 pages, but 8+ perhaps figuring 2-3 pages extra for a total of 10 pages).

2. Presence of a writing process.

Drafting-response-revision cycles for student work but also other activities like keeping a journal, doing oral presentations or on-line assignments, etc. as long as these activities are designed to contribute to the writing of a paper. This process component also includes reviewing the instructor-to-student ratio since that effects the ability of the instructor(s) to provide feedback on student work.

3. Attention given to writing.

Example: is there explicit instruction and/or discussion about writing practices and genres in the discipline?

Based on a letter from the Campus General Education Board Chair dated December 8, 2003