**ENG 101: English Composition**

Most incoming first-year students enroll in ENG 101 during either their fall or their spring semester. Some students fulfill the requirements of the course through AP courses and a score of 3 or higher on the AP English test, or by completing HONORS 111 and 112 with a grade of C or higher.

Because academic reading and writing are crucial to success in college, the University of Maine and the Department of English offer a two-semester, "Stretch," version of ENG 101 for students wanting to build strong foundations for future intellectual work. Students electing the "Stretch" version of College Composition take ENG 100 and ENG 106.

They work on college-level writing throughout their first year at the University, earning six graduation credits. Increasingly widespread, "Stretch" approaches to college writing

lead to multi-faceted success. Students enrolled in "Stretch" programs earn higher grades in writing than do their counterparts in single semester courses. They are also more likely to graduate on time.

Additional information on the "Stretch" version of ENG 101 is attached.

**S-t-r-e-t-c-h Your Chances for Success in Writing**

Making the transition from high school to college-level writing is one of the hardest things you will face during your first year on campus. Much of your work at the University will require writing: lab reports, field notes, class notes, research reports, academic essays, feasibility studies, white papers, capstone projects, and on and on. And most of that writing will not look at all like the writing you have gotten accustomed to doing in high school.

To meet the challenges of University writing, you need to have a range of abilities at your disposal. You need to be able to use a variety of writing processes. You need to know how to read examples of university-level work critically enough that you can follow their

structures in your own writing. And you will need to have spent enough time engaged in academic writing that you will have developed routines for doing it well.

While we offer ENG 101, College Composition, as a one-semester course, you may want to consider the "Stretch" approach for fulfilling the first of your General Education writing requirements. This model consists of a sequence of two writing courses (ENG 100 and ENG 106). The sequence gives students the time they need to create for themselves a solid foundation for most of the writing the University will ask of them. The chart below should make the differences clear.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ENG 101 | ENG 101/106 | |
| Duration | 1 semester. Students enroll in either Fall or Spring. | 2 semesters, beginning in Fall. Students have an entire academic year to work on Universitv readinq and writinq skills. | |
| Staff | Graduate TAs, adjuncts, and faculty. | Master teachers only. Students stay with the same faculty member for both semesters. | |
| Coursework | Students complete a sequence of writing and revising assignments about challenging readings. | Students complete a similar sequence with equally challenging readings, but with twice as much time for writing, revising, and feedback. "Stretch" classes will also give students an opportunity to study the writing practices in the majors they plan to declare. | |
| Course Assessment | Students must pass a portfolio review by ENG 101 staff at the end of one semester. | ENG 100/106 portfolios are assessed in the Spring, after a full year of work and revision. | |
| Credits | 3 qraduation credits | 6 graduation credits |  |



IS "STRETCH" COMPOSITION RIGHT FOR YOU?

(Do you want to devote an extra semester to building a strong foundation in academic writing?)

Answering the following questions may help you choose.

* When you read an assigned text, do you have strategies for working out an understanding?
* Have you written at least three essays during each of two of your semesters in high school?
* Do you usually understand what a writing assignment is asking you to do?
* Once you receive a writing assignment, do you have a choice of routines you can follow to get yourself started?
* Do you usually allow yourself enough time to complete a response to a writing assignment (even if you find the writing difficult)?
* Do you understand the comments teachers make on your papers? Do those comments pretty much agree with your own sense of what you have composed?
* Do you feel like you know what you need to do to earn a good grade on a writing assignment (even if you do not always do that)?
* Do you sometimes use writing as a way to work out and understand possible interpretations of a text?

If your answer to all the questions above is yes, you should be able to complete ENG 101 in one semester.

If your answer to two or more of the questions above is no, you should sign up for the Stretch sequence. Please indicate on the Course Selection Form under Group I: WRITING COMPETENCY.

If your answer to one of the questions is no, you should confer with Prof. Pat Burnes at [patricia.burnes@maine .edu](mailto:patricia.burnes@maine.edu) about which course to take.