

Advising Guide for ELL Students Considering Registering Above their Recommended Placement Level

We know that WR courses, as general education courses in the [BU Hub](#), may not be courses that students are most excited for. Sometimes students want to skip ahead in the WR course sequence in order to save the cost of another class, get a jumpstart on taking classes in their major, and/or take a class that has WR 120 as a pre- or co-requisite. These are not unreasonable desires, but you should think very carefully when making this decision. We also know that many English language learners at BU have spent a portion of their high school years in the United States: that in and of itself is not a good reason to skip ahead a course (or two). Instead, use the following process to make your decision about which level WR is best for you:

1. First, **read over** the description of [WR 111](#) and/or [WR 112](#), and their course objectives.
2. Next, **think back on** your previous writing instruction before BU:
 - Have you written multiple English papers of 1000+ words?
 - Did you regularly revise your papers—deep, substantial revisions that might end up taking a paper in a different direction than you had initially thought?
 - Do you feel comfortable and confident reading longer texts (perhaps 50 pages of a novel, or two longer essays, for a given class period) efficiently and with comprehension?
 - Do you feel comfortable speaking out in discussion-based classes that use class participation as a key component of the course?
 - Are you good at seeking out help from instructors, going to office hours, finding and using tutors, and generally using all available resources when faced with challenging academic tasks?

If your answer to at least four of these five questions is “yes,” then you might be in a good position to begin the WR sequence one level above your recommended placement.

3. **Remember** that WR 111 offers a Hub unit in “The Individual in Community” and WR 112 in “Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy.” Both courses have merit on their own as general education courses, and you may consider taking them for their Hub units as much as for their focus on reading, writing, and academic acculturation.
4. **Consider** your overall course load this semester. Do you have time-intensive lab sciences, or a significant course for your major with heavy demands on your time? Are you taking other courses which may be reading- or writing-intensive, including additional courses for Hub units? Answering “yes” to either of these questions suggests that you may be better off registering for the level of your recommended placement. You should discuss your overall course load with your advisor.
5. Finally, if you believe that you would thrive in a level of WR above that of your recommended placement, you may register for WR 112 or WR 120. **If you still have questions about your placement, please reach out to Christina Michaud, Director of ELL Writing (cmichaud@bu.edu) to discuss your situation.**