

## Advising Guide for Multilingual International Students: Considering Registering Above Your Placement Level? Read This!

We know that WR courses, as general education courses in the [BU Hub](#), may not be courses that students are most excited for. Sometimes our international multilingual students want to skip ahead in the WR course sequence in order to save the cost of another class, to get a jumpstart on taking classes in their major, and/or to 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. Your academic advisor is an expert at helping students plan their coursework over all four years of their studies—even if they take both WR 111 and WR 112. We consider WR 111 and WR 112 courses that can set you up for success in your future coursework; these are challenging, interactive courses, not remedial ones, and definitely *not* a repeat of high school. We also know that many multilingual students at BU have spent a portion of their high school years in the United States, even taking AP English—that in and of itself is not sufficient to skip ahead a level.

*Please use the following process to think through which level WR is best for you:*

1. **Think back on** your previous writing instruction before BU:
  - Have you written multiple argument-driven English papers of 1500+ words in a given semester?
  - 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, as homework in a single night) 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. Please schedule a placement conference to discuss your situation.*

2. **Remember** that WR 111 satisfies a Hub requirement 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 acculturation.
3. **Consider** your overall course load this semester. Do you have time-intensive lab courses? You may be better off registering for the level of your recommended placement rather than moving up. You should discuss your overall course load with your advisor.
4. **Register** for a [placement conference](#) to discuss your particular situation with an experienced Writing Program faculty member. The instructor will talk with you, listen to your concerns, and advise you on the level of WR that may be the best fit for you.
5. **If you still have questions about your placement, please reach out to Christina Michaud, Director of ELL Writing ([cmichaud@bu.edu](mailto:cmichaud@bu.edu)).**