



The Writing Placement Process at ODU

All incoming undergraduate students who have not earned credit for ENGL 110C are required to use the Writing Success Placement Tool (WSPT). The results will determine whether a student should enroll in corequisite courses ENGL 101/110C (6 credits) or directly into a stand-alone section of ENGL 110C (3 credits). For any additional questions, please visit the [Writing Placement and Support](#) website.

Step 1: Receive Admitted Student Checklist

- Advisors will direct students to their "admitted student checklist" where students will access the WSPT (wspt.odu.edu).*

Step 2: **Take the WSPT at least 3 business days prior to orientation

- Students access the WSPT via Midas log-in. After the tool is completed, students will receive their score and instructions for next steps via e-mail within 72 hours of completion.

*Students can also access the [WSPT](#) through their Blackboard orientation site and the Writing Placement and Support [website](#).

** Students who fail to take the [WSPT](#) a **minimum of 3 business days prior** to their registered orientation may run into registration problems.

Writing Success Placement Tool (WSPT): What to Expect

The [WSPT](#) includes 5 sections that the Writing Placement and Support Office uses to determine students' level of preparedness for university writing. Once students complete and submit each section, they will not be able to return to that section. Each section is saved upon completion. There is no time limit for completing the tool. ***However, students must complete all sections of the WSPT at least 3 days prior to their respective orientation session.***

Sections of the WSPT:

- **Academic History:** Students will be asked to supply high school GPA, as well as information about their last writing course taken. Students need to make sure they have this information on hand before opening the tool.
- **Writing Assessment:** Students will write responses to two prompts and then reflect on themselves as writers.
- **Reading Assessment:** Students will read a short passage, answer multiple choice questions about the content of that passage, and reflect on themselves as readers.
- **Grammar Assessment:** Students will select from multiple choice options to fill in blanks requiring appropriate grammatical answers and then reflect on their comfort with and knowledge about English language conventions.
- **About Composition at ODU:** Information about ENGL 101 and ENGL 110C will be presented, and students will be asked to draw upon their previous reflections to identify which course sequence they believe is the best fit for them and reflect on their choice.

Upon completion: Within 72 hours, students will receive an e-mail at their ODU address with their score as well as detailed instructions for registration. In addition to this e-mail, students may access their score by logging back into wspt.odu.edu should they need to. WSPT responses, however, are not accessible upon completion.

Score of "1"

Find ENGL 101/ENGL 110C paired
course schedule
(QR Code and Link Below)

Select a paired set of ENGL 101 and
110C courses that suits your schedule.

Using your preferred ENGL 101 CRN,
register in LEO. When prompted, enter
the paired ENGL 110C CRN.

Process Complete

Score of "3"*

Find a section of ENGL 110C in LEO that
suits your schedule.

Register for ENGL 110C.
[Process Complete.](#)

**QUICK TIP: IF YOU DO NOT HAVE
EASY ACCESS TO THE PAIRED
ENGL 110C CRN, YOU CAN
ENTER A SERIES OF RANDOM
NUMBERS WHEN PROMPTED AND
THE CORRECT CRN WILL APPEAR
IN AN "ERROR" MESSAGE.**



[ENGL 101/110C
Viewable Schedule](#)

*Students who score a "3" on the [WSPT](#) but think ENGL 101 + ENGL 110C is a better fit may take ENGL 101 by contacting the Director of Writing Support to be granted permission to register for the course.

ENGL 101/ENGL 110C Registration Process

1. Log into LeoOnline. Select the “Admissions, Registration, Student Records, Graduation Information” tab.

LEO FUSION

(Personal Information) (Admissions, Registration, Student Records, and Graduation Information) (Financial Aid) (Faculty & Advisors) (Employee)

Search

Main Menu

- Personal Information
Update Addresses or Contact Information; Review Name or Social Security Number; Change Information; Change PIN; View MIDAS User ID and University Identification Number (UIN).
- Admissions, Registration, Student Records, Graduation Information
Check Admissions Application Status and Transfer Credit Evaluation; View Holds; Register for Classes; Display Class Schedule; Review Charges and Payments; Display Grades or Transcripts. C
- Financial Aid
Apply for Financial Aid; Review the status of your financial aid applications; Check status of document requirements; Review loans.
- Faculty & Advisors
Enter Grades and Registration Overrides; View Class Lists and Student Information
- Employee
Benefits, Leave or Job Data; Pay Stubs, W2 and W4 data.
- Make a payment on account, sign up for e-Refunds and/or sign up for a Payment Plan
You will be redirected to a secure site to make your payment or set up an electronic refund.
- Alternate Searchable Schedule

[Return to Homepage](#)

2. Select “Registration.”

Admissions, Registration, Student Reco

- Admissions
File an application for admissions; Review existing applications, their status, and
- Registration
Check your registration status; Add, drop or withdraw classes; Select grading me
- Student Records
View your holds; Display your grades and transcripts; Review charges and paym
- Graduation
Apply to Graduate; Degree Works; View Graduation Status; Commencement Site

RELEASE: 8.9

3. Select "Banner XE" Registration.

Registration

- [Withdrawal Information for Students with Financial Aid](#)
- [Grade Forgiveness Policy](#)
- [Old Dominion University Bookstore](#)
Use this link to transfer your course registration information for textbook shopping :

 [Banner XE Registration](#)

RELEASE: 8.9

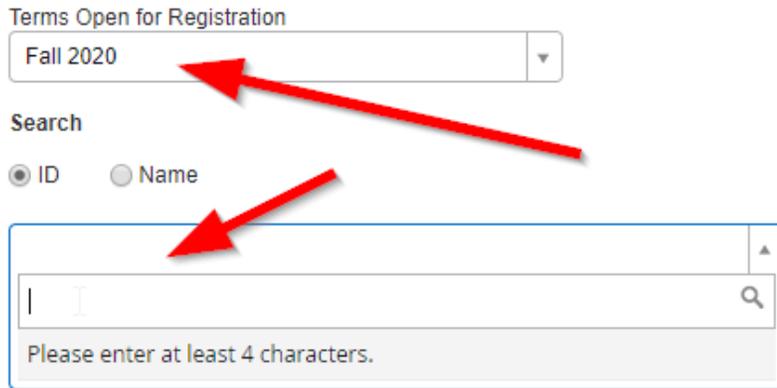
4. Select "Register-Add/Drop/Withdraw."

Registration

What would you like to do?

 Prepare for Registration View registration status, update student term data, and complete pre-registration requirements.	 Register-Add/Drop/Withdraw Search and register for your classes. You can also view and manage
 Plan Ahead Give yourself a head start by building plans. When you're ready to register, you'll be able to load these plans.	 Browse Classes Looking for classes? In this section you can browse classes you find
 View Registration Information View your past schedules and your ungraded classes.	 Browse Course Catalog Look up basic course information like subject, course and descriptio

5. Enter term and UIN, then Continue



Terms Open for Registration
Fall 2020

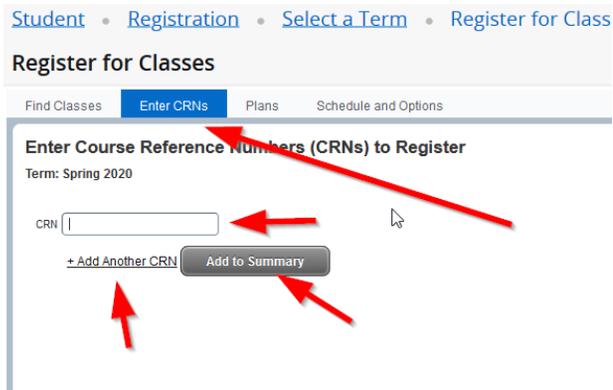
Search
 ID Name

Please enter at least 4 characters.

This screenshot shows a registration form. At the top, there is a dropdown menu labeled "Terms Open for Registration" with "Fall 2020" selected. Below this is a "Search" section with two radio buttons: "ID" (which is selected) and "Name". Underneath the radio buttons is a search input field with a magnifying glass icon on the right. A message below the input field says "Please enter at least 4 characters." Red arrows point to the "Terms Open for Registration" dropdown, the "ID" radio button, and the search input field.

6. Select the “Enter CRNs” tab. Enter the ENGL 101 CRN. Select the “Add Another CRN” tab. Enter the ENGL 110C CRN paired with your selected ENGL 101 course. You can find the schedule of paired ENGL 101 and 110C sections on the Writing Placement and Support website under “Registering for ENGL 101/110C.”

7. Then, click on “Add to Summary.”



Student • Registration • Select a Term • Register for Class

Register for Classes

Find Classes Enter CRNs Plans Schedule and Options

Enter Course Reference Numbers (CRNs) to Register
Term: Spring 2020

CRN |

+ Add Another CRN Add to Summary

This screenshot shows the "Register for Classes" page. At the top, there is a breadcrumb trail: "Student • Registration • Select a Term • Register for Class". Below this is a header "Register for Classes" with four tabs: "Find Classes", "Enter CRNs" (which is selected), "Plans", and "Schedule and Options". The main content area is titled "Enter Course Reference Numbers (CRNs) to Register" and shows "Term: Spring 2020". There is a text input field labeled "CRN |" with a cursor. Below the input field are two buttons: "+ Add Another CRN" and "Add to Summary". Red arrows point to the "Enter CRNs" tab, the "CRN |" input field, the "+ Add Another CRN" button, and the "Add to Summary" button.

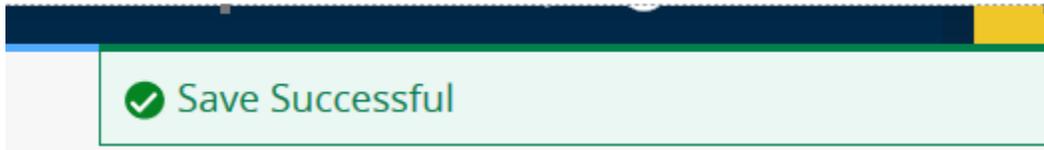
8. Sections will appear as “Pending.” Click on the “Submit” button. Status will be changed to “Registered” or....

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Tuition and Fees". It contains two identical sections. Each section has a "Pending" status label, a dropdown menu currently set to "RE Registered", and a "verride:" dropdown menu. At the bottom of the form, there is a "Submit" button circled in red. The bottom right corner of the form displays the time "11:48 AM" and the date "2/5/2020".

9. Error message may appear indicating the correct ENGL 110C CRN that should be entered.



10. Should this happen, go back and enter the ENGL 110C CRN provided in the error message, and “Submit” again. You should get this message:



What is ENGL 101: Composition Studio?

Course Description: English 101 Composition Studio (formerly UNIV 150) is an immersive study of writing, rhetoric, and composing concepts and strategies designed to complement and extend the English 110C curriculum. English 101 provides additional instruction, guided practice, and support as writers learn to successfully compose and revise in multiple genres for multiple purposes and audiences and navigate university literacy expectations. **Prerequisite:** A score of 1 on the Writing Success Placement Tool (WSPT) or an override from the Director of Writing Support.

- 3 elective credits
- Co-enrollment/ corequisite with ENGL 110C, which means that **students take ENGL 101 and ENGL 110C at the same time for six (6) credit hours total.**
- Students who place into ENGL 101 will sign up for both courses through ENGL 101 using the viewable schedule.

Who should take ENGL 101?

ENGL 101 is designed for students who seek a more individualized and gradual introduction to first-year writing.

How do students enroll in ENGL 101?

Upon completion of the WSPT, students will receive an e-mail with access to a schedule of paired ENGL 101 and 110C sections available for the semester. Once the student determines which paired section of ENGL 101 and ENGL 110C best suits their scheduling needs, they should make note of the CRN for ENGL 101, as well as the CRN for its corresponding section of ENGL 110C for Leo registration.

Tip: If students do not have easy access to the view-only schedule, when prompted to enter the paired ENGL 110C CRN, they can simply enter a series of random numbers, at which point they will receive an error message with the correct ENGL 110C CRN for registration.

The ENGL 101/110C schedule will also be posted and continuously updated on the [Writing Placement and Support website](#).

What is special about ENGL 101?

- Students have the same instructor for ENGL 101 and ENGL 110C.
- The ENGL 101 class meets right after ENGL 110C in most cases, which allows students to ask additional questions or obtain additional instruction to help them better understand and apply concepts learned in ENGL 110C.
- ENGL 101 is capped at 12, which means students have access to more individualized instruction and support from their instructor.

What is ENGL 110C: English Composition?

Course Description: The principal objective of ENGL 110C is to prepare students to be effective writers of the kinds of compositions they will be called on to produce during their college careers. By the end of the course, students should be more mature in their understanding and use of language, should develop efficient writing processes, and should know and demonstrate the qualities of effective composition in a given rhetorical situation and should be able to demonstrate those qualities in their own writing.

Prerequisite: A score of 3 on the Writing Success Placement Tool (WSPT) or an override from the Director of Writing Support.

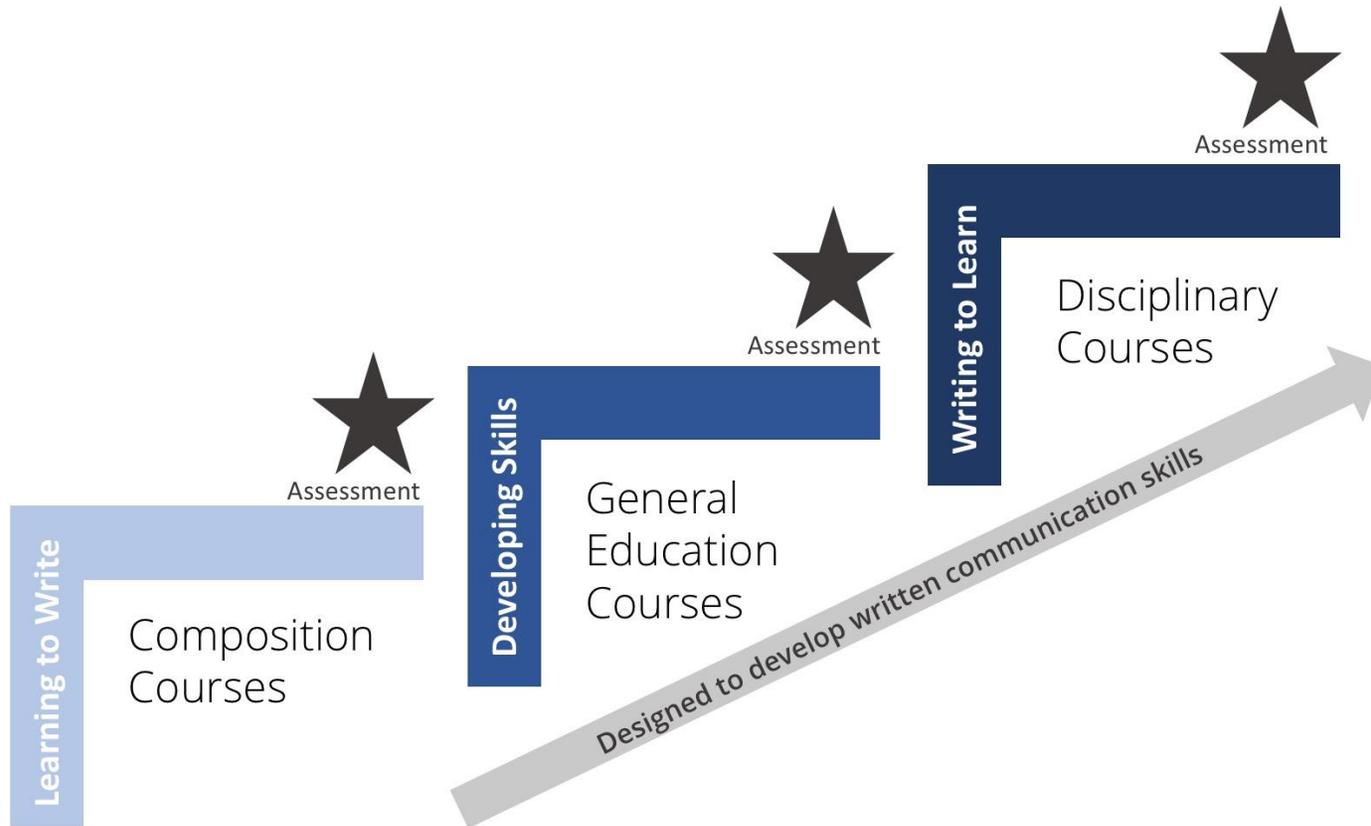
Should I take ENGL 110C by itself (i.e., without ENGL 101)?

ENGL 110C is the best option for students who have experience writing and formatting papers that range between three and six pages, independently drafting papers in response to writing assignment prompts, providing feedback to peers on their writing, and revising their writing based on peer and instructor feedback. Students who enroll in only ENGL 110C (i.e., not ENGL 101) may anticipate needing some tutorial support from the Writing Center (all writers can benefit from getting feedback on their work!), but should not necessitate frequent individual meetings with the instructor in order to be successful in the course. Students who are prepared to write at the college level and feel confident that they can be successful in a writing course that is accelerated should take ENGL 110C on its own.

How do I enroll in ENGL 110C?

Those students who are not taking a paired ENGL 101 and ENGL 110C course will sign-up for ENGL 110C in Leo just as they would sign up for any other course.

Written Communication Skill Development at ODU



Composition courses familiarize students with university expectations regarding writing, reading, listening, and speaking. As shown in the picture above, ODU's writing curriculum requirements aim for student success not only in writing and communicating in subsequent general education courses, but also in the writing intensive courses that all students must take in their selected major, and in the workplace contexts they will encounter beyond.

Frequently Asked Questions

About The Writing Placement Support Tool (WSPT):

What is the Writing Success Placement Tool (WSPT)?

The WSPT measures students' writing and reading abilities and considers their previous learning experiences to determine which ODU English composition course sequence is the best fit for them. The WSPT uses a combination of high school GPA, performance on writing, reading, and grammar diagnostics, and self-assessment to make this determination. Anyone entering Old Dominion University without credit for ENGL 110 English Composition should use the WSPT.

Students who score a "1" will need to register for a section of ENGL 101 and its corresponding section of ENGL 110 (6 credit hours total). Those students who score a "3" will enroll directly into ENGL 110C (3 credit hours). Students will receive their score and directions for registration via email within 72 hours of completion.

The WSPT must be submitted at least 3 BUSINESS DAYS (Monday through Friday) prior to the start of your orientation. **If you fail to meet this deadline, your placement data may not be updated in the system, which can affect your ability to register for courses.** If you run into any issues, concerning writing placement, please e-mail writingplacement@odu.edu or contact the Director of Writing Support, Mary Beth Pennington at mpenning@odu.edu. Please check your email thoroughly and wait at least 72 hours after using the WSPT before emailing to ask about your score.

How long will the WSPT take?

You are encouraged to take the WSPT when you can devote a couple of hours to reading and responding to questions, drafting and revising written responses, and answering the survey questions. Students who have completed the WSPT report that it takes an average of 75 minutes to complete. Of course some students take longer, and some finish more quickly.

What does the WSPT include?

The WSPT includes the following modules: Honor Pledge, Academic History, Writing Assessment, Reading Assessment, Grammar Assessment, and About Composition at ODU.

What is the time limit for taking the WSPT?

There is no time limit, but the tool does not allow students to change previous responses.

Do I need to have anything prepared or with me when I do the WSPT?

You will need to know your high school GPA and the grade earned in your most recent English class, so you may find it helpful to have your high school transcripts close.

Do you have any tips?

We suggest that you draft your written responses in a document and copy and paste them into the WSPT so, if something goes wrong, you have a copy. Also, anything you write for this tool may be used in determining your placement. It is in your best interest to respond to questions with full sentences.

What if I have concerns about my score?

If you do not feel that the score you have received is an accurate representation of you as a writer, contact the Director of Writing Support, Mary Beth Pennington at writingplacement@odu.edu, and she will put you in contact with a writing advisor with whom you can discuss your score.

How will I gain access to the WSPT?

You will see a link to the WSPT in your admitted student checklist and/or your advisor will direct you to the link in your Blackboard orientation site. The tool can also be accessed through wspt.odu.edu and the [Writing Placement and Support website](#). Students will log-in with their Midas credentials. Please note that you will need to access and complete the WSPT at least 3 business days prior to your orientation session.

When does my access to the WSPT expire?

Once completed, previous responses cannot be accessed. However, students can log back in to the WSPT to be reminded of their score and to retrieve basic information about registration at any point.

What if I have taken an equivalent composition course at a different university?

If the ODU Admissions Office has not granted transferrable credit for ENGL 110C upon processing your official transcripts, please refer to the Transfer Course Equivalency tool (<https://transfer2.odu.edu/equivalency/>) to review how courses from your previous institution are accepted into ODU. After reviewing the Transfer Course Equivalency tool you may contact the Director of Composition, Jenn Sloggie at jsloggie@odu.edu. Please note that you should be prepared to present a syllabus from the previous composition course, as well as other supporting materials, to be reviewed by ODU for course equivalency.

How does Writing Support know whether I -- not someone else -- took my WSPT?

The WSPT may be one of the first opportunities an admitted student will have to uphold the ODU Honor Pledge. The WSPT is covered by ODU's honor code, so students must sign an honor pledge before beginning the process. Students who violate this pledge, even those who are newly admitted, are subject to university sanctions for honor violations. However, the most substantial consequence will be felt by the student. Accurate

placement ensures that the student is provided the support and instruction needed to be successful in their writing courses and at ODU, in general. For example, if a student is placed into ENGL 110C before they are ready to succeed in the course, chances are much greater that the student will fail the course.

What if technical problems arise as I am taking the WSPT?

Please consult the [Writing Placement and Support website](#) for updates regarding the status of the WSPT if you are experiencing technical problems. If no updates exist on the website, please contact ODU's [ITS help desk](#). Should ITS be unable to solve your problem, you may contact the Director of Writing Support, Dr. Mary Beth Pennington, at writingplacement@odu.edu.

About ENGL 101/110C

Is ENGL 101 the equivalent of UNIV 150?

Yes and no. While ENGL 101 is replacing UNIV 150 as the course in which those students with a score of “1” on the WSPT must enroll, the course itself, as well as the process for registering and taking ENGL 101 are much different than UNIV 150.

What happens if I have failed UNIV 150?

Starting in Spring 2020, those students who have failed UNIV 150 can retake the WSPT to see if they place differently, or they can automatically enroll in ENGL 101 +110C.

What if I need to take ENGL 101 and 110 online?

Only those students the university has coded as “online” will be allowed access to the online paired sections of ENGL 101 and ENGL 110C made available each semester. Distance students should find the paired online sections of ENGL 101/110C available on the schedule and contact the instructors listed for permission to enroll. Other students who have extenuating circumstances that they feel should qualify them to take ENGL 101 online should contact the course instructor.

Can a student take ENGL 101 online and ENGL 110C on-site/face-to-face (or vice versa)?

No. Currently, students must take ENGL 101+110C as either strictly face-to-face or strictly online sections. There is no option for mixing online and face-to-face sections at this time.

For all other questions about writing placement at ODU, please peruse the [Writing Placement and Support website](#), which is updated frequently, or contact the Director of Writing Support, Dr. Mary Beth Pennington, at writingplacement@odu.edu or mpenning@odu.edu.