

REPORT OF THE SCHOLASTIC STANDARDS AND PETITIONS COMMITTEE

The committee has one item to report to the Senate.

The Department of English has recently decided to eliminate the Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) and has requested that this be deleted from the catalogue. The writing proficiency test in the case of freshmen was originally presented to the Senate for information by our committee on December 3, 1980. Its application to transfer students was approved at the same meeting by a vote of the Senate. The following changes are presented for the review of the Senate. No action is required.

A. Under the section on English Language and Literature (p. U132) and just before the Basic Degree Requirements in English.

PRESENT

All freshman and transfer students entering the University must take the Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) before enrollment. Students who do *not* receive a score of 2 or above on the WPT are required to take and complete successfully English 100, Basic Writing.

PROPOSED

- Approved

Delete

B. Under Other Special Sections (p. 133U).

Freshman Courses. To ensure that the level of composition instruction students receive is appropriate to their actual writing ability, all students entering the University of South Carolina, Columbia, will be tested for placement in, or exemption from, freshman English on the basis of a Writing Proficiency Test as well as on the basis of Achievement Test scores. The Writing Proficiency Test will consist of a 45-minute essay on general topics designated by the English Department and will be evaluated on a scale of 1 to 4. In evaluating the essays, readers will judge the writers' sense of purpose, organization, paragraph development, sentence structure, and diction, as well as grammar and usage. Those students whose papers receive a score of 1 will be placed in English 100, a score of 2 in English 101, and a score of 3 in English 102, with three hours automatic credit for English 101. Students receiving a score of 4 will be exempted from and receive 6 hours credit for freshman English. All entering students will take the Writing Proficiency Test; transfer students must score at least a 2 to validate their previous freshman English credits. The Writing Proficiency Test will be administered by the Writing Center during new student summer orientation, twice before registration, and once during the drop-add period.

Delete

C. Under the section on Exemptions (p. 133U).

One or two semesters of freshman English may be exempted on the basis of sufficiently high scores on one of three placement examinations: (1) the Writing Proficiency Test, (2) the Advanced Placement Test, or (3) College Level Subject Examination(s).

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