

# Dual Enrollment

## English 1100 & English 1200



### Course Descriptions

PennWest offers two first-year writing courses, both of which are available to current high school students: English 1100, Intro to College Composition, and English 1200, College Composition. These courses count for General Education credits at PennWest and are easily transferrable to any college or university.

- **English 1100:** This course emphasizes the processes and practices of writing at the college level by engaging students in narrative, descriptive, and expository writing. In this course, students learn strategies for developing ideas, focusing their writing, logically organizing the content of papers and projects to meet the needs of readers, and using peer and instructor feedback to revise and edit writing to make it more effective. Papers in this course range from 2-4 pages.
- **English 1200:** This course reinforces the skills and practices of English 1100 but also requires research and integrating sources into assignments. Students learn techniques for paraphrasing, summarizing, and citing outside works. Other assignments include analyses of course readings. Assignments are longer in length, most often ranging from 3-5+ pages.

### Questions?

For more information about dual enrollment, including a list of available courses, scan the QR code.



### Choosing a Course

PennWest uses a process called Directed Self-Placement (DSP) for first-year writing. This means that new students choose their first-year writing course(s). They either choose to start in English 1100 (for General Education credit) and to follow it up with English 1200 (the course required of all students), or they choose to take only English 1200. **Although the Directed Self-Placement survey is not available to dual enrollment students**, we provide some explanation here of the process to help students make the choice that is best for them.

The DSP survey asks students to reflect on their experiences with writing and their confidence related to their writing skills. This includes the number of papers and projects they have completed in the past year and the nature of this writing. Both English 1100 and English 1200 emphasize the reading of non-fiction texts--essays, articles, and arguments. Our survey data shows that high school students have extensive experience reading and analyzing literature, but they are less familiar with analyzing and responding to non-fiction. Students are also indicating that they are not completing as many essays or writing projects during their last year of high school as in pre-pandemic years.

For these reasons and others, at least half of PennWest's new students choose to start in English 1100 each year. These students want to take the additional time to develop their writing skills and to get comfortable with college-level writing as they make the transition from high school to college. Dual enrollment students should consider their experiences with writing and talk to their parents, teachers, and guidance counselor before making a choice between English 1100 and English 1200.