

## What is Writing Across the Curriculum?

Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) recognizes and supports the use of writing in any and every way and in every and any course offered at a learning institution. A WAC Program in its simplest term is any organized, recognized, and sustained effort--no matter how modest in people, resources, and funding--to help faculty in any and every course use writing more deliberately and more often.

The design. Funding. And reporting structure for WAC programs varies widely across institutions. They are often established through temporary funding sources, such as grants, and one-time funding associated with instructional innovation initiatives. This seminar is funded by a CPP SPICE grant. Those established with base funding (permanent funding) tend to exist for longer periods of time and tend to have more enduring impacts on the student learning and success. Assessment of student learning and faculty engagement is a critical part of most WAC programs, with assessment methods varying widely across institutional contexts. Until we hold other WAC/WID seminars, we are not set up to discuss the ways that we can begin to assess the effectiveness of the seminars. Although, you as professors, can begin to assess your students' understanding through writing in your classes, as you see fit.

WAC programs broadly supports three, often intertwined, approaches to increasing the use of writing to support student growth:

Writing to learn

Writing to engage, and

Writing in the disciplines.

Very often a course will apply all three elements. Because of the brevity of this seminar, we will focus mostly on Writing in the Disciplines. What matters is using writing in thoughtful ways, with a clear understanding of how the activity assigned will help students meet course goals.

\*Taken from <https://wac.colostate.edu/resources/wac/intro/programs/>