

CONTENT I: REVISED VERSION SUBMITTED TO THE TASK FORCE ON  
COMPOSITION, DEPT. OF ENGLISH, April 17, 1980  
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N. B. Except for Admissions/Registration and Degree Requirements, the recommendations of the other committees which are compatible with specific sections of Content I are incorporated into the present version. The other compatible recommendations are included at the end of the report.

I. ADMISSIONS/REGISTRATION.

- A. Date: April 22, preferably earlier. This is the date by which the student who is admitted must enroll.
- B. Increasing registration: If registration continues to climb beyond next year, request President to raise entrance requirements.
- C. Test for placement: SAT-Verbal for natives; SAT-Verbal and Toefl for foreign students.

II. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS.

- A. 9-hour requirement for all undergraduate colleges and schools; E306 (freshman), E 314K (sophomore), E 325M (Writing in Different Disciplines at the junior level)
- B. Rationale: reading and writing competency at the college level has been the hallmark of the educated man since the beginning of college education in Greece. The requirement of a writing course at each level is motivated by the Harvard study--writing skills deteriorate if there is no sustained practice.

III. CONTENT I PROPOSAL.

- A. E 306: Rhetoric and Composition (freshman year).
  1. Content--readings in the humanities, rhetorical strategies, linguistic elements for mechanics.
  2. Logistics--
    - a. Exemptions--SAT 530 (B) and SAT 575 (A); these figures would exempt 30%, about the present number
    - b. E 506 for SAT-Verbal 353 (bottom 5%) and E 406 for SAT-Verbal 380 (bottom 10%), referred 2 or 1 hour respectively to a Writing Center. These 600 students can be accommodated by a permanent staff of about 5 or six persons (see Lab attachment).
    - c. Experimentation with content readings: essays, literary pieces, etc.
  3. Curriculum: 6-7 major themes based on rhetorical strategies. Emphasis on analytic themes, though some experiential permitted.
  4. Foreign students: E 306Q continued (Toefl score to admit--550).
    - a. E300Q--new course to accommodate Toefl 500-550 and low SAT-Verbal scores--to be investigated.

B. E 314K: Introduction to Literature(Sophomore level)

1. Content--the best introduction to literature course the department can devise.
2. Logistics--
  - a. Exemptions--AP with a score of 4 or 5 (B or A); CLEP as presently administered. All colleges required.
  - b. Substitutions--literature courses in other departments if on more than a translation level (some analysis required in the compositions).
  - c. Class size: start at 40 and work down to 25 (may be possible with this proposal if enough departments outside English adopt a substitute for E 325M).
3. Curriculum--A history, genre, or theme unity to be required in each course. Experimentation encouraged in content and format.

C. E 325M: Writing in Different Disciplines(Junior level).

1. Content-- four different contents (science, social science, humanities, business). A fifth set of set of sections for foreign students. Readings in the area both classical and contemporary; writing for the general reader.
2. Logistics--
  - a. Exemptions--Top 15% of SAT (score of SAT-Verbal 575)saves 900; transfers with two composition courses: saves ?; junior level attrition saves 1000.
  - b. Substitutions-- other departments with a content writing course: saves ? ; E 325M current enrollment saves 500.
  - c. Exemptions plus substitutions: save 2500 plus ?
3. Curriculum--ca. 6 themes; experimentation encouraged.
4. Panel grading for exit exam (?).

ADVANTAGES OF CONTENT I:

1. Literary requirement to all colleges (1 semester in only 314K works out, 2 semesters if literary readings work in E 306).
2. Gives university a content specific course--78% of all respondents in Sledd-Hereford survey preferred this.
3. Puts English at the heart of first three years of each student's program.
4. Insures writing at each year except senior.
5. Saves 100 sections plus ?.
6. Transfers exemption criteria to English department.
7. Makes the writing and reading requirement a university requirement, not just an English requirement.
8. Introduces a humanities series of readings into each college, regardless of discipline, at the junior year.
9. Insures writing standards by exit exams.

IV. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS COMPATIBLE WITH CONTENT I.

A. Admissions and Registration.

1. Summer 306 for 12 weeks.

B. Exemptions.

1. More exemptions for the second composition course.

C. Format I.

1. Panel grading for courses.

D. Format II.

1. Increased Freshman/Sophomore communication and cooperation.
2. TA's from other departments.

E. Staffing.

1. Regular supervision of all TA's and AI's.
2. Lower pool teaching load to 3-3.
3. Pool continuity by longer appointments.
4. Composition course count for 4.5 TLC.
5. Loads of 1 comp (regular faculty), 2 comp (pool).
6. More flexible graduate courses.

F. Administration.

1. Retain present administrative structure.