Writing Intensive Courses at Sterling College

In order to support student proficiency in writing across the different disciplines, students are required to complete a minimum of 2 credits of 200-level and 2 credits of 300-level coursework that is designated as ‘writing intensive.’ Writing intensive courses integrate student writing throughout the semester, and writing is an explicit part of the content of the course. Students will work with faculty and peers through the process of writing in order to emphasize appropriate writing skills both within and across specific disciplines.

Writing intensive courses in all disciplines share the following principles:

1. The course builds on writing skills introduced in 100- and 200-level introductory courses and addresses skills fundamental to effective writing.
2. Writing assignments will be distributed across the semester (rather than being due at the end of the course).
3. Faculty will devote instructional time to the writing process.
4. Students will write rough drafts of at least two formal writing assignments written during the course of the semester, and these drafts will be reviewed and commented on by the instructor.
5. Drafts and revisions will be incorporated into the final grade for the course.
6. Students will share their writing with peers in the class (whether online, in class, or outside of class time).
7. Students will be strongly encouraged (or required if appropriate) to meet with a Writing Center staff member.
8. Students will develop strategies to appropriately engage in online research (if applicable).
9. Students will understand the conventions of writing in specific disciplines (including formulating research questions, citation, quoting, and paraphrasing).
10. Students will be guided toward resources outside of class that can support their writing.
11. Faculty will communicate with the Director of Writing Programs when developing course syllabi and participate in professional development conversations with other faculty teaching writing intensive courses at least once a semester.
12. Faculty are encouraged to share a common textbook (for example Graff & Birkenstein, They Say / I Say).