

Tier I Junior Composition Equivalency Courses (JE courses)

What are JE courses?

In the fall of 2011, the Faculty Senate passed and EVPP Benoit signed a resolution establishing a category of Tier I composition courses at the undergraduate level called Junior Composition Equivalency courses—JE courses. JE courses are writing-intensive courses that are typically within a student's major program.¹ Successful completion of two JE courses fulfills the Tier I Junior Composition (J-course) requirement. Students may now use JE courses in their major to meet the J-course requirement.

What are the requirements for JE courses?

- 1) The JE course should be a requirement or an elective within a major and should be taught regularly.
- 2) The JE course must have a minimum of 2 semester credit hours.
- 3) The course enrollment is limited to 25. A department/school may request an exemption from this requirement; if so, the course proposal should explain how the structure of the course would allow for rigorous evaluation of student writing (e.g., break-out sections).
- 4) The course content submitted must detail how the course fulfills the following:
 - (a) students write regularly during the term;
 - (b) a specific percentage of class time is devoted to discussions of writing;
 - (c) each student will produce several minor or one major piece of work, comprising at least 10-15 total pages of original writing;
 - (d) each student will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit written work; and
 - (e) peer critique, where appropriate, is used as a pedagogical strategy.

Where can I get help developing JE courses?

In order to support faculty in the development of JE courses, Professors Sherrie Gradin and Talinn Phillips (English) will be offering short workshops for those interested in developing an existing course for JE credit. One seminar was offered in winter, and more will be offered during the spring quarter and fall semester, as well as individual follow-up consultations if needed.

How do I submit JE courses for approval?

JE courses can be created by converting a current course to a JE course, or by creating a new JE course. All course changes and new courses are now submitted through OCEAN at <https://webapps.ohio.edu/ocean/> and follow the regular approval process through departmental/school, college, and university curriculum committees.

To convert an existing course to a JE course in OCEAN:

- 1) Log in to OCEAN at <https://webapps.ohio.edu/ocean/>.
- 2) Under "Courses" on the top menu bar, choose "Create course change form."
- 3) In the search text box, enter the course code and number of the course you want to convert to a JE course. This will create a course change form with one tab that shows the original course,

¹ Both JE courses may be within the major program, or one of the two may be outside the major program; both JE courses may be outside the major program only if approved by the department or school.

and another tab that allows changes to the course.

4) Click on the "change" tab.

5) On the "course info" tab, change the main course type to "Tier I course."

6) On the "Gen Ed" tab, select "Tier 1 Junior Composition Equivalency." The general education outcome goals for JE courses will then be displayed. JE courses should meet all of the objectives unless there are specific disciplinary reasons provided explaining why this is not appropriate.

7) The rest of the information is filled out the same way as the previous paper form. The course content submitted should address the JE course requirements above.

To create a completely new JE course:

1) Log in to OCEAN at <https://webapps.ohio.edu/ocean/>.

2) Under "Courses" on the menu bar, choose "Create course form."

3) Click on "Semester Undergraduate Tier I course (new). This will take you to the new course form that has the same information to fill out as the previous paper new course forms.

4) On the Gen. Ed. tab, select "Tier 1 Junior Composition Equivalency." The general education outcome goals for JE courses will then be displayed. JE courses should meet all of the objectives unless there are specific disciplinary reasons provided explaining why this is not appropriate.

5) The rest of the information is filled out the same way as the previous paper form. The course content submitted should address the JE course requirements above.

What are the general education outcome goals for JE courses?

- Writing competency in the specific discipline's genre(s) and writing conventions.
- Understanding of how a discipline's genre(s) and writing conventions shape reading, writing, knowledge, and power as appropriate to the discipline.
- The ability to discover, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize core sources appropriate to the discipline (e.g. primary and secondary sources, data, images, and scores), and to properly cite those sources.
- The ability to improve writing through multiple drafts by developing flexible strategies for generating, revising, editing, and proofreading text.
- Competency in critically assessing one's own writing and the writing of others.
- The ability to construct compelling and effective arguments using logic, rhetoric, and supporting evidence appropriate to the discipline.

JE courses should meet all of the objectives unless there are specific disciplinary reasons that obviate that requirement.

Which course numbers are used for JE courses?

Credits for JE courses will only be awarded to students who have completed their Tier I Freshman Composition requirements and have earned at least 30 semester credit hours, so typically JE courses will be at the 2000 level or above.

For updated information about curricular issues, visit the University Curriculum Council's website at <http://www.ohio.edu/facultysenate/ucc/index.cfm>.