

Policy on J-Course and JE-Course Criteria
Amended by UCC, 10/13/20 (first reading)

General education components for a course must be specified by completing the “General Education” portion of the OCEAN document, either at the time a new course is created, or during a course change. ICC forwards all requests for new General Education designations and changes in General Education courses to the UCC General Education Committee for comment.

Tier I Courses

Junior-Level “J” Composition Courses

General Criteria

- The aims of the course are broad enough to justify its existence as a writing course fulfilling a University-wide requirement.
- The department considers the course an important component of its program.
- Instruction in writing is the focus of the course. Therefore, writing is frequent, and at least 5,000 original words are assigned. The writing will be evaluated and revised.
- A variety of purposes and types of writing appropriate to the discipline should be assigned. Because the course fulfills a University requirement, the audience for the writing usually is imagined to be an intelligent and critical lay audience, rather than the teacher or some highly specialized members of the discipline.
- Enrollment should be limited to 20 students to encourage evaluation and revision, critical thinking, and interaction. The maximum enrollment is 25.
- The instructor is interested in the craft of writing and in helping students achieve higher levels of competence as writers.

Suggestions for Good Writing Instruction

- The goal is writing that is readable, lucid, and logical and seeks applicability across the disciplines.
- Matters of mechanics, grammar, and spelling receive appropriate attention.
- Some subjects or purposes of the writing assignments are initiated by the students.
- Teacher/student responses to writing and rewriting are integral components of the course.
- The student’s writing is discussed with the teacher both in class and in individual conferences.
- The teacher distributes a syllabus with clear explanations of assignments and criteria the instructor uses to evaluate their writing.

Junior Composition Equivalency Courses (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.

Requirements for JE courses

- The JE course must have a minimum of 2 semester credit hours.
- 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).
- The course content submitted must detail how the course fulfills the following:
 - a specific percentage of class time is devoted to discussions of writing.
 - each student will produce several minor or one major piece of work, comprising at least 10-15 total pages of original writing.
 - each student will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit written work.
 - peer critique, where appropriate, is used as a pedagogical strategy.

Completing the Junior-Level Composition Requirement (any one of the following)

- Passing a course approved as Advanced Writing in the OHIO BRICKS program.
- Passing an approved “J” course
- Passing two “JE” courses within their program of study
- Passing one “JE” course within their program of study and one “JE” course outside their program of study approved by their department or school.