

Proficiencies

English/Writing Proficiency and Requirements

Writing Placement

In order to ensure writing success at Taylor, all students will place into the freshman writing course that best meets their needs as college writers: ENG 101 Fundamentals of Writing or ENG 110 Expository Writing.

Most students' writing placement is determined by using SAT Critical Reading or ACT English test scores and the high school GPA. Students whose combined scores are high will be placed into ENG 110 (unless they choose to attempt CLEP or AP credit); students whose combined scores are not high will be placed into ENG 101; except for multilingual students who will be placed in a special section and the reading proficiency (if required) shall be deemed completed when this special section is completed with a C- or higher. *English-speaking international students (including missionary kids and other third-culture kids) who place into ENG 101 but would prefer to take the special section for multilingual students are welcome to do so since it will focus on American academic writing and reading preparation.* Any international student who is placed into ENG 110 but does not pass the reading proficiency will be placed into IAS 140, the academic reading course.

After receiving his or her placement, if a student believes that he or she has been placed into the wrong writing course—either at too high or too low of a level—the student should contact the Advising Office. The student will be given an online writing test to complete. Then, the chair of the English department and the writing center director will evaluate this writing sample, along with the SAT/ACT test scores and high school GPA in order to determine if the writing placement should be changed. The student will receive an email within two weeks of completing the writing test notifying him or her of the final writing placement. In order to have the writing placement altered, the writing test should be completed by August 1. Following August 1, it is unlikely any placements can be altered.

Students who do not have SAT/ACT scores must also complete a writing test to help determine writing placement. Placement will be decided based on the writing test and the high school GPA. Students should contact the Advising Office to receive the writing test.

Writing Requirements

Taylor University believes that writing plays a significant role in both learning and communication; thus, Taylor has several writing requirements. First, all students must meet ENG 110 Expository Writing in their first year at Taylor. Some students must complete ENG 101 Fundamentals of Writing (Fall semester) prior to Expository Writing (Spring semester). These writing courses set the foundation for the college-level writing that will be expected at Taylor. Second, a large number of Taylor's foundational core courses incorporate writing in some way, from short in-class writing to research papers. Third, every student will experience a substantial amount of writing in their major, most of which will be discipline-specific writing to prepare students for the kind of writing they will need in their careers. All students, both first-time freshmen and transfer students, are expected to complete ENG 110 Expository Writing by the end of their first year.

Transfer Credit for ENG 110

Writing courses transferred from other institutions to meet ENG 110 must represent the total writing requirement at that college or university (*the last course in a sequence if more than one semester is offered*). The course should include process writing, finished essays, and a research paper. The Registrar's Office (*in consultation with the English department at Taylor*) must approve transfer courses.

AP Credit for ENG 110

An AP score of 5 qualifies for credit, while a score of 4 requires evaluation of the essay by the English department at Taylor University. If a score of 4 is received, it is the student's responsibility to request that AP send the free response booklet essay. The student then needs to submit the free response booklet essay to the Testing Office. The AP process must be completed with the Office of Academic Assessment before October 15, for students entering in the Fall semester, or March 15, for those entering in the Spring semester.

CLEP Credit for ENG 110

Students wishing to attempt CLEP credit must have scores at or above 35 in SAT Reading (taken after March 2016), 660 in SAT Critical Reading (taken prior to March 2016), or 27 in ACT English. A scaled score of 50 or higher on the CLEP College Composition Modular exam qualifies a student to write an essay evaluated by the department of English. The CLEP exam must be taken and passed by October 15 for students entering in the Fall semester and March 15 for students entering in the Spring semester. Students not completing all requirements by the appropriate date must register for ENG 110 in their second semester at Taylor.

If the AP or CLEP exam for ENG 110 Expository Writing is passed and approved by the Office of Academic Assessment, the fee for posting credit to the transcript must be paid by November 1, for those entering in the Fall semester, and April 1, for those entering in the Spring semester. Students are solely responsible for verifying that their scores are received in the Office of Academic Assessment.

Reading and Math Proficiencies

All new students, both first-time freshmen and transfer students, must demonstrate proficiency in reading and mathematics. The main purpose of these proficiency requirements is to ensure that all students are prepared to successfully complete coursework at Taylor. Proficiency tests are administered at student orientations during the summer, Welcome Weekend, and the first week of the Fall and Spring semesters.

All students must fulfill the reading and math proficiency requirements according to the following guidelines:

Reading

Students with an SAT Reading score of 29 or above taken after March 2016, SAT Critical Reading score of 540 or above taken prior to March 2016, or ACT English score of 23 or above are considered to have met the reading proficiency requirement.

Students without a sufficient SAT or ACT score will be registered for IAS 140 Academic Reading. Students will have the opportunity to test out of IAS 140 during Summer Orientation or Welcome Weekend by passing the reading proficiency exam with a score of at least 13.0. Students can satisfy the reading proficiency by completing IAS 140 with a grade of C- or better.

Math

Students with an SAT math score of 570 or above taken after March 2016, SAT math score of 550 or above taken prior to March 2016, or ACT math score of 24 or above are considered to have met the math proficiency requirement.

Students without sufficient SAT or ACT scores are required to attain a passing score of at least 35 on the math proficiency exam. Students in this group who do not pass the proficiency exam will be enrolled in MAT 100 Mathematics Fundamentals. Failure to pass the exam as part of the course will require re-enrollment in MAT 100 for the following term.

Other math courses, including Taylor or transfer credit, will not meet the math proficiency requirement.