

University of Massachusetts at Lowell Outcomes for First-Year Writing

These objectives were designed in consultation with the Council of Writing Program Administrators' Outcomes Statement for First-Year Writing, available at www.wpacouncil.org/positions/outcomes/html.

College Writing A ESL (42.110) for Navitas

Catalog description: A workshop course that provides a thorough review of the basics of essay writing in preparation for success in College Writing I ESL, with a focus on the particular needs of multilingual students. Students placed into this course will use the writing process to strengthen the fundamental skills necessary for clear academic writing in English, including the basic rules of grammar and principles of rhetoric. *Department consent required.*

The learning objectives for this course include the following:

- Students will practice writing as a multi-stage process, including drafting, revising, and editing.
- Students will improve their ability to control their language and ideas to produce clear, effective writing in English.
- Students will practice developing their ideas logically and completely in well-organized and coherently structured paragraphs.
- Students will write consistently in various forms, scaffolding their skills from extensive paragraph writing to write no fewer than two complete essays.
- Students will review relevant principles of grammar, mechanics, and style relevant to ESL writers in, including:
 - diction and word choice
 - idiomatic expression
 - linear logical progression
 - thesis-driven argument
 - presence and control in the writer's voice
 - academic citation and referenceand practice identifying and editing these issues in their own writing.
- Students will develop their reading comprehension skills, by learning how to actively read and annotate texts.
- Students will explore their roles as participants in an academic community of writers, including the rhetorical and ethical conventions that govern American academic writing.
- Students will take an active role in their learning, and will identify and use campus resources—including faculty office hours and tutoring services—that will support their ongoing growth as writers in English.
- Students will exit with an awareness of their strengths and weaknesses as writers, and the self-assessment tools necessary to continue on successfully in their writing careers.

Common syllabus elements and principles for CWA ESL offered through Navitas:

Attendance Policy

Every section shares a **mandatory** attendance policy: Missing more than two weeks' worth of classes (i.e., 4 meetings of a twice-weekly class, or 2 meetings of a once-weekly class) will result in course failure. Please make this very clear to students.

Entrance Assessment

At the first class meeting, students will be given the UMass Lowell ESL-Diagnostic as an initial measurement of their ability in listening and reading comprehension as well as their expressive ability.

Plagiarism Instruction and Policy

It is critically important that Navitas students become thoroughly familiar with the concept of plagiarism as understood in the American academic environment. Students should receive

extensive and repeated instruction that encourages ethical uses of source material and proper citation. Students should exit this course with a strong grasp of the various definitions of plagiarism (including handing in work not their own, failing to appropriately cite others' intellectual property, and inappropriately paraphrasing information or ideas from other sources) and the UMass Lowell policy regarding academic dishonesty, as spelled out in the catalog: http://www.uml.edu/catalog/undergraduate/policies/academic_dishonesty.htm.

Every effort should be made to identify issues of questionable authorship in early drafts, before a student's final paper is turned in. Papers found to be plagiarized should receive a grade of zero, which should be factored into the final course grade. Such papers may not be rewritten, and subsequent instances of plagiarism are grounds for course failure.

Minimum Grade for Advancement

Students must pass 42.110.NAV with a grade of C or better to qualify to go on to CWI ESL, either 42.111.NAV or 42.111 offered in the day school.

Recommended Text

No specific textbook is required, but several instructors have found *The Writer's Response* by McDonald and Salomone to be an appropriate and helpful option. The Cengage rep. to UML is Jeffrey.Krum@cengage.com, (515) 554-8026.