

First-Year Directed Self-Placement for Writing

The First-Year Directed Self-Placement for Writing (DSP) gives you a chance to learn about the types of academic writing most often assigned and valued at the University of Michigan. The DSP will help you judge your own readiness for and comfort with college writing, and assist you in choosing your writing courses at the University.

Do I have to complete the Directed Self-Placement for Writing?

- All first-year students in Architecture, Art & Design, Business, Engineering preferred admits to Business, Kinesiology, LSA (except Honors), Music, and Nursing are **required** to complete the First-Year DSP.
- All transfer students (except Engineering and LSA Honors) who have not completed an approved First-Year Writing Requirement course at their previous college or university are **required** to complete the First-Year DSP.
- First-year students in Engineering who are not preferred admits to Business and LSA Honors are **exempt** from the DSP.

Students who are required to complete the Directed Self-Placement for Writing (DSP) must enroll in and complete a [First-Year Writing Requirement](#) (FYWR) course with a minimum grade of C- to satisfy the requirement. FYWR courses teach students the habits and strategies needed for college-level writing.

For students who seek a more individualized and gradual introduction to college writing, the University offers two separate transition courses that may be taken prior to or at the same time as a FYWR course: [Writing 100: The Practice of Writing](#) and [Writing 120: College Writing for International and Multilingual Students](#).

When you meet with your advisor during Orientation, you will consider your experience completing the DSP essay and questions, as well as your prior writing experiences. Based on these considerations, you will choose a writing course that will enable you to become more proficient and confident in academic writing. **Once you have registered for your first writing course, your course instructor will read your DSP essay to familiarize him- or herself with your writing.**

To complete the Directed Self-Placement for Writing, find a time during which you can devote several hours to reading the article, drafting and revising your essay, and answering the survey questions. Take the essay and the questions seriously, so that you can make an informed choice about your first writing course at the University of Michigan.

Instructions:

1. Log in to <https://www.lsa.umich.edu/sweetlanddsp/firstyear> and read the instructions.
2. Read the article and prompt.
3. Write a 1200-1500 word essay (4-5 pages) in response to the prompt and upload it.
4. Answer follow-up questions about your writing experience.

The Directed Self-Placement for Writing will be available April 1, 2019 and must be completed five business days prior to the start of your orientation. If you fail to upload your essay and answer the required questions by this deadline, you may lose your seat in your first writing course at the University of Michigan. Please keep a copy of your DSP essay.

For more information about the Directed Self-Placement process and the First-Year Writing Requirement, visit the Sweetland Center for Writing website: lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/undergraduates/first-year-writing-requirement. All questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Directed Self-Placement for Writing should be directed to the Sweetland Center for Writing; send an email to sweetlandinfo@umich.edu, or call 734-764-0429.