

# Transfer Student Directed Self-Placement for Writing

The Sweetland Center for Writing has designed two Directed Self-Placements (DSPs) to help transfer students judge their own readiness for and comfort with college writing. The specific DSP you will take depends upon whether you have already met the First-Year Writing Requirement (FYWR). Neither DSP is a test. Rather, each DSP is a tool designed to give students insight into the kind of writing expected of undergraduates at the University of Michigan and to help you judge your own readiness for and comfort with college writing. You will make the decision about the writing courses you take, but one of the DSPs will assist you in that decision, along with input from the Sweetland Center for Writing and your academic advisor.

## Writing Requirements

Students at the University of Michigan (with the exception of College of Engineering students) must satisfy the [First-Year Writing Requirement](#) by completing an approved FYWR course. In addition, the Stamps School of Art and Design; the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; and the School of Music, Theatre and Dance require students to satisfy an [Upper-Level Writing Requirement](#) (ULWR) with an approved ULWR course which must be taken at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor campus. It is your responsibility to be aware of the specific requirements in the school or college you enroll in.

## Which DSP do I take?

- **Engineering and LSA Honors transfer students** are not required to complete either DSP.
- **Architecture, Business, Dental Hygiene, Education, Information, Kinesiology, Nursing, and Public Health transfer students** are not required to complete the Transfer DSP. **However, if you have not fulfilled the FYWR at UM with an approved transfer course, you are required to complete the [First-Year DSP](#).** Visit the [Sweetland Center for Writing Transfer Student webpage](#) where you'll find links to a list of approved courses from other colleges and universities, as well as a list of courses that are not approved, to see whether the course you completed elsewhere satisfies the FYWR at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
  - ❖ **If you did not take a writing course at another college or university**, you need to complete the First-Year Directed Self-Placement for Writing to help you choose the most appropriate first-year writing class. Log in to [lsa.umich.edu/sweetlanddsp/firstyear](http://lsa.umich.edu/sweetlanddsp/firstyear) and follow the instructions on the webpage.
  - ❖ **If the course you completed at your previous college or university is on the list of**

[approved transfer courses](#), and you received at least a grade of C, you have fulfilled the FYWR and do not need to complete either Directed Self-Placement. When you meet with your advisor during Orientation, please confirm that your student record indicates the FYWR has been fulfilled.

- ❖ **If the course you completed at your previous college or university is on the list of [not-approved courses](#)**, you need to complete the First-Year Directed Self-Placement for Writing to help you choose the most appropriate first-year writing class. Log in to [lsa.umich.edu/sweetlanddsp/firstyear](http://lsa.umich.edu/sweetlanddsp/firstyear) and follow the instructions on the webpage.
- ❖ **If the course you completed at your previous college or university is not on either the list of [approved](#) or [not approved](#) transfer courses**, you may complete an online [Petition for Transfer Credit](#) to be reviewed by the Sweetland Center for Writing to determine if the course fulfills the First-Year Writing Requirement at UM. As part of the petition, you will need to submit a course description (from the school catalog) and a detailed course syllabus, including writing prompts with page length requirements for each assignment and an explanation of the drafting, feedback and revision process. **Please submit your petition materials at least one month before the date of your orientation.**
  - If your petition is not approved, take the [First-Year DSP](#).
  - If your petition is approved, you are not required to complete either DSP.
  - If you choose not to submit a Petition for Transfer Credit, please complete the [First-Year DSP](#).

➤ **Art and Design, LSA (except Honors), and Music transfer students** are required to complete the Transfer DSP. **However, if you have not fulfilled the FYWR at UM with an approved transfer course, you are required to complete the [First-Year DSP](#) instead of the Transfer DSP.** Visit the [Sweetland Center for Writing Transfer Student webpage](#) where you'll find links to a list of approved courses from other colleges and universities, as well as a list of courses that are not approved, to see whether the course you completed elsewhere satisfies the FYWR at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

- ❖ **If you did not take a writing course at another college or university**, you need to complete the First-Year Directed Self-Placement for Writing to help you choose the most appropriate first-year writing class. Log in to [lsa.umich.edu/sweetlanddsp/firstyear](http://lsa.umich.edu/sweetlanddsp/firstyear) and follow the instructions on the webpage.
- ❖ **If the course you completed at your previous college or university is on the list of [approved transfer courses](#)**, and you received at least a grade of C, you have fulfilled the FYWR and **are required to complete the Transfer DSP**. Log in to [lsa.umich.edu/sweetlanddsp/transfer](http://lsa.umich.edu/sweetlanddsp/transfer) and follow the instructions on the webpage to complete the Transfer Directed Self-Placement.
- ❖ **If the course you completed at your previous college or university is on the list of [not-approved courses](#)**, you need to complete the First-Year Directed Self-Placement

for Writing to help you choose the most appropriate first-year writing class. Log in to [lsa.umich.edu/sweetlanddsp/firstyear](http://lsa.umich.edu/sweetlanddsp/firstyear) and follow the instructions on the webpage.

❖ **If the course you completed at your previous college or university is not on either the list of [approved](#) or [not approved](#) transfer courses**, you may complete an online [Petition for Transfer Credit](#) to be reviewed by the Sweetland Center for Writing to determine if the course fulfills the First-Year Writing Requirement at UM. As part of the petition, you will need to submit a course description (from the school catalog) and a detailed course syllabus, including writing prompts with page length requirements for each assignment and an explanation of the drafting, feedback and revision process. **Please submit your petition materials at least one month before the date of your orientation.**

- If your petition is not approved, take the [First-Year DSP](#).
- If your petition is approved, take the [Transfer DSP](#).
- If you choose not to submit a Petition for Transfer Credit, please complete the [First-Year DSP](#).

**IMPORTANT: All DSPs must be completed at least 5 BUSINESS DAYS (Monday through Friday) prior to the start of your orientation.**

## **How the Sweetland Center for Writing can help**

The Sweetland Center for Writing offers a range of courses that support transfer student writing, including [Writing 350: Excelling in Upper-Level Writing](#) and [Writing 340: Professional and Technical Writing and Communication in International Contexts](#). [Sweetland also offers](#) two courses specifically for international and multilingual students, [Writing 229: Editing and Style for International and Multilingual Students](#) and [Writing 240: Professional and Technical Presentation for International and Multilingual Students](#).

In addition, students who complete the Transfer DSP will receive an email from the Sweetland Center for Writing inviting them to schedule an appointment in Sweetland's [Writing Workshop](#) to receive feedback on their DSP responses and advice on writing at UM.

For more information about writing requirements, courses, programs, and support for transfer students, visit the Sweetland Center for Writing website at: [lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/undergraduates/transfer-students](http://lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/undergraduates/transfer-students).

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](mailto:sweetlandinfo@umich.edu), or call 734-764-0429.