



## **The Graduate Writing Assessment:** *Is it a requirement in your department?*

If you are a recently admitted graduate student at Madonna University, check with the Graduate School (734-432-5667) to see whether your department requires its students to take the Graduate Writing Assessment. *Nursing, Business, Religious Studies, and MA Liberal Studies and Leadership (MALSL) programs currently require their students to take the assessment.*

### **The policy:**

In certain programs, all newly admitted graduate students, including those transferring from other institutions of higher education and students holding previously earned graduate degrees, are required to write a response to one of two writing assessment prompts, created by Madonna University writing faculty. The faculty also scores the graduate writing assessment essays. The purpose of the writing assessment is to determine how prepared students are for graduate-level writing assignments and for writing in the professions.

Students who need additional writing instruction may be required to take up to three semester hours of directed graduate writing coursework, in addition to their graduate program coursework.

All students must fulfill their writing requirements, as determined by the assessment, in the semester following the assessment.

The fee for taking the graduate writing assessment is \$50, payable at Student Accounts.

### **Procedures:**

1. You may take the graduate writing assessment at the MU Writing Center (Rm. 1403). Call (734) 432-5304 to make an appointment.
2. To get directions to take the graduate writing assessment online, contact the Writing Center Coordinator, Frances FitzGerald, at [ffitzgerald@madonna.edu](mailto:ffitzgerald@madonna.edu).

## **Q & A about the writing assessment**

### ***When should I take my writing assessment?***

You are expected to take your assessment as soon as you receive your letter of acceptance, but no later than the end of your first semester.

**Note:** If you do not complete your writing assessment within this time frame, a hold will be

placed on your record and you will not be able to register for subsequent courses until you have completed the graduate writing assessment.

***Is there anyone who doesn't have to take the graduate writing assessment?***

Yes. Some students will not have to take the assessment because it is required by certain programs only.

***What will I be writing about?***

You will be asked to choose one of two essay topics and will be given 90 minutes to complete the assessment. Each topic includes a short reading selection. What you write will demonstrate your ability to comprehend written materials, to integrate borrowed material into your own writing, and to formulate an essay as directed.

***How are the assessment essays scored?***

Each one is read by two or three MU writing instructors using the same scoring guide.

***How will I know what my placement score is?***

You will receive an e-mail from the assessment coordinator, Frances FitzGerald.

***What happens if I believe my placement score is inaccurate?***

You may re-take the assessment once at no charge. The higher of the two scores will be used. After re-taking the writing assessment, if you still believe your score is inaccurate, you may discuss your concerns with the director of writing programs. Contact Dr. Neal Haldane at [nhaldane@madonna.edu](mailto:nhaldane@madonna.edu) or (734) 432-5559.

If you opt to re-take your writing assessment, please note that we can not lift your WRT 5000 hold until you have re-taken it and earned a score of at least 4G.

What your score means:  
5G—Excellent  
4G—Ready for grad-level writing  
3G—Need 1 s.h. of WRT 5000  
2G—Need 2 s.h. of WRT 5000  
1G—Need 3 s.h. of WRT 5000  
ESL-G—Consult with ESL Writing Center Specialist

***Be informed***

- ◆ The Writing Center personnel, the writing assessment coordinator, and the director of writing programs *do not decide* whether you have to take the writing assessment.
- ◆ The faculty in your program have made the decision that *all students* in their programs must meet this requirement. There are no individual exemptions based on your writing samples or your previous grades.