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Writing Assessment in the First Year Studies (FIYS) Program

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Overview of Lake Forest College First Year Studies



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- The primary goal of the FIYS program is to increase first-year students' intellectual engagement and their investment in the institution and its mission.
- Series of set-aside one-credit seminars offered in the fall of the freshman year.
- Taught by faculty who are also effective academic advisors of the students.
- Limited to 15 students per section.

Student Learning Outcome: Academic Writing



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- **First-Year students will be able to demonstrate competence in academic writing by successful completion of a summer writing assignment, as well as a variety of writing assignments during the semester, and demonstration of skill with the writing process through revision of assignments and use of the Writing Center, as assessed by the course instructor and successful completion of the course.**



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Data Collected Currently

- **Data on student learning outcomes for writing skills are currently collected in a two ways:**
 - **a student survey, administered annually, which includes a question about writing in First-Year Studies**
 - **assessing the averages of grades on three writing assignments, collected developmentally during the semester from each section of First-Year Studies**



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FIYS Self-Assessment Survey 2011 – improving writing skills

**My FIYS class helped me improve
my writing skills.**

	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	19.8%	72
Agree	41.0%	149
Somewhat agree/disagree	25.6%	93
Disagree	9.6%	35
Strongly disagree	3.9%	14



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FIYS Writing Developmental Writing Assessment Fall 2010

Course #	Assignment		
	Summer	One	Two
1	68	75	78
2	78	80.22	81.47
3	84.3	83.05	86
4	70	88	89
5	79.1	77.9	77.2
6	69.76	82.7	82
7	79.78	77.11	85.06
8	72.2	78.07	81.16
9	84.23	87.4	83.83
10	83.9	82.4	83.1
11	79	83	80
12	79.68	80.33	84.4
13	68.6	76.18	86.53

FIYS Writing Developmental Writing Assessment Fall 2011



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Course #	Assignment		
	Summer	One	Two
1	71.3%	82.25%	80.19%
2	72.5%	81.67%	83%
3	52.81%	65.83%	80.20%
4	46%	78%	80%
5	84.53%	90.62%	86.87%
6	74%	86%	84.7%
7	79%	81%	86%
8	83.20%	80.86%	87.60%
9	76%	78.67%	77.58%
10	87.45%	84.84%	72.28%
11	72%	82%	78%
12	82%	82%	82%
13	78.12%	80.65%	77.75%
14	78%	82%	78%
15	81.87%	71.87%	84.8%
16	72.4%	82.87%	78.2%
17	85%	88%	88%
18	83.2%	80.86%	87.6%
19	64%	70%	76%
20	84.7%	83.9%	84.0%
21	84.75%	77.03%	74%



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Future Goals & Plans for Writing Assessment

- **Collect two papers from each FIYS section**
 - **one paper written over the summer, one later in the semester, before November 1;**
 - **all papers anonymous and unmarked by the instructor.**
- **Assessed by the college's Writing Committee (2 readers per paper) according to a common rubric shared with participants.**



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Feedback Loop

- **Results of the Writing Committee's findings will be shared (as aggregate data, not about individual writers) with FIYS faculty after the Writing Committee has completed its review early in the spring semester;**
- **Shared also with the incoming FIYS faculty for 2013 in the May 2013 workshop.**
- **For 2013 and after: to develop measure to assess other FIYS goals including critical thinking and research skills**