CSU's English Composition Requirement

All CSU students are required to fulfill the All-University Core Curriculum (AUCC) Intermediate Writing Requirement (AUCC Category 1A) prior to completion of 60 credits. Students can complete the AUCC Intermediate Writing requirement in one of five ways:

1. Satisfactory completion of CO 150: College Composition.
2. Achieving a score of 5 on the Advanced Placement English Composition and Literature Test; or a score of 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Test; or placing in CO 150 -section 550 (automatic credit for CO 150) on the Composition Placement Challenge and Re-evaluation Essay.
3. Transferring equivalent credits from another college. (Students who transfer with less than 2.6 semester credits in composition will have the option of writing the Composition Placement Challenge and Re-evaluation Essay. With a score of 5, we can request the additional credit be waived).
4. Satisfactory completion of HONR 193 (Honors students only).
5. Submission of International Baccalaureate scores that document an English at the Higher Level score of 5, 6, or 7.

Credit for CO 150 will not be given for high scores on the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP).

Students (except first-semester transfer and readmitted students) who have earned 60 or more CSU and transfer semester credits and who have not met this requirement will have a COMPOSITION HOLD placed on their record. Transfer and readmitted students will be allowed the initial term of enrollment before this restriction is imposed.

What if I Have a Composition HOLD Placed on My Registration?

Before the start of every semester, undergraduate students are informed, via email from the Registrar, if they have not completed the AUCC composition requirement. After a student has earned 60 or more CSU and transfer semester credits without fulfilling the AUCC composition requirement, the email will also give notice that a Composition Hold has been placed and provide information on how to remove the Hold.

The procedure to remove a COMPOSITION HOLD is as follows:

1. You can contact the Registrar’s Office as soon as you receive the email letting you know that a Composition HOLD has been placed on your registration – you do not have to wait for your registration access time.
   - You can contact the Registrar’s Office immediately, if you are currently registered for CO 130 or have transfer credit for CO 130.
   - If you need to take the Directed Self-Placement Survey, once the Survey is completed, you can contact the Registrar’s Office.
   - If you are in the Honors Track I program, you will need to register for HONR 193.
   - If you were automatically placed into CO 130 or selected CO 130 on the Directed Self-Placement Survey, you will need to select a section of that course for which to register. Then, after successful completion of CO 130, you will need to register for CO 150 the following term. CO 150 satisfies the All-University Core Curriculum Intermediate Writing requirement (AUCC Category 1A).

2. Once you have chosen a section of composition that works with your schedule, contact the Registrar’s Office in Centennial Hall by calling (970) 491-4860, or emailing registraroffice@colostate.edu. If sending an email, please do so from your RAMS email account and include your full name, CSUID number, and the CRN for the CO course for which you want to be registered. Please make sure to have the CRN of the section you have chosen available in order to expedite your request.

3. The Registrar’s Office will then remove the Composition HOLD from your academic record and register you for the composition section you selected, which will allow you to proceed with registration starting on your designated registration date/time.

If a student drops or withdraws from the composition course or does not earn a passing grade, the grade of record will become an “F.” This grade of “F” will be included in the calculation of both the semester GPA and the cumulative GPA as a consequence of not completing the 60-credit completion requirement.

CSU’s Composition Placement Program

Critical reading and writing skills are significant components of every program and degree at CSU. Moreover, research at CSU, as well as nationwide, demonstrates a clear connection between academic success and the ability to write effectively for various audiences. The CSU Composition Placement Program is designed to ensure that you register for the composition course most suited to your needs, CO 130: Academic Writing or CO 150: College Composition.

To learn more about CSU’s Composition Placement Procedures, go to http://composition.colostate.edu/students/placement

Appeals Process

Students wishing to appeal (http://registrar.colostate.edu/forms/3364) this registration restriction must write a detailed rationale as to why they were unable to complete the course within the first 60 credits. Students must also outline their plan for completion of the requirement.

If registered for an equivalent course at another institution, students should include proof of registration. Appeals must be received by the student’s academic advisor and department head for their signatures and indication of support/lack of support of the appeal. The signed appeal must then be submitted through the Registrar’s Office, First Floor, Centennial Hall, to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs who holds authority for final approval or disapproval.

In addition, a student wishing to appeal this registration restriction may also contact the English Department’s Composition Program Assistant, Sue.Russell@colostate.edu (970) 491-1898.