About the course

Academic and Professional Writing is a comprehensive, semester-long course in improving written English proficiency. Tailored toward the special needs of international graduate students, the course teaches effective academic writing. Participants analyze and practice composing paraphrases, summaries/abstracts, analyses, critiques/evaluations, and full-length papers – individually and in collaborative group assignments.

Course details

Time: All classes are conducted online. Specific details will be communicated by the instructor.

Intensity: Participants should set aside 2-3 hours for reading assignments and supplemental online information, plus time to complete one writing assignment per week.

For further information:

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sneu@vt.edu
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Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute

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Don’t let poor writing compromise your opportunity for academic success

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, gender, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. Anyone having questions concerning discrimination should contact the Office for Equal Opportunity. If you are a person with a disability and require any auxiliary aids, services, or other accommodations for this program, please discuss your accommodation needs with Susan Neu at (540) 231-5730 or sneu@vt.edu by two weeks prior to the course.

VIRGINIA TECH
LANGUAGE AND CULTURE INSTITUTE
Fall and Spring Semesters
Graduate School English requirements

The Graduate School administers an English Placement Test to newly arrived international students not meeting certain TOEFL or IELTS requirements. Students who do not pass the test are required to take an English course during the first semester of enrollment at Virginia Tech along with a full load of academic classes (9-12 credit hours).

The Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute offers two courses that meet the Graduate School’s English course standard: Academic and Technical Writing and Scientific and Technical Writing. Both are offered in the fall and spring semesters.

More information on these courses and the English Placement Test may be found at www.lci.vt.edu/testing/english-placement-test.

Course objectives

Successful students completing this course will be able to:

- Demonstrate consideration of audience, purpose, organization, style, flow, and presentation in every writing.
- Compose a standard extended-definition paper and a problem-solution paper.
- Compose a research paper satisfying the structure and format requirements of their academic discipline.
- Adjust levels of formality and technicality according to form of communication, purpose in writing, and recipient.
- Recognize and compose effective parallel structures, both sentence-level and in the overall structure of the document.
- Employ headings as informative and organizational devices.
- Adjust verb tense to the context of each section of a document.
- Formulate indirect statements of question.
- Interpret graphic data with accuracy and clarity, and avoid redundancy of information.
- Compose a complete, accurate, and detailed paraphrase.
- Compose a comprehensive, balanced, and neutral summary.
- Evaluate a published article with specificity and for proper qualification of claims.
- Conscientiously and properly document supporting references.
- Increase flow through transitions, linking phrases, reminder statements, and connecting expressions.

How to register

Registration and payment are due at the beginning of each semester.

Details on registration and payment can be found online at www.lci.vt.edu/intensive-english/academic-and-professional-writing.

Requests for refunds will be honored when received seven calendar days prior to the start of the program.

For more information about this course, contact Susan Neu at 540-231-5730 or email sneu@vt.edu.