

Summary of the Writing Subcommittee Memo

The following provides a summary of a memo from the CCN Writing Subcommittee

Recommendation

We recommend that the Information Literacy (IL) outcomes not be included in the task of aligning course outcomes for WR courses.

Chart approved by CCN Writing Subcommittee Co-chairs Tristan Striker, Tim Jensen, and Leigh Graziano, 04/13/2023.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transfer Council

FROM: Tristan Striker, Tim Jensen, and Leigh Graziano

DATE: 4/13/2023

SUBJECT: Information Literacy Outcomes

Dear Transfer Council Members,

As per our conversation in December, and in response to a request from the Systems and Operations Subcommittee, we are writing this memo to explain our concern regarding how the information literacy (IL) outcomes relate to the aligned course outcomes for WR courses. Specifically, our concern stems from the fact that community colleges are required by the Joint Boards' Articulation Committee (2009), Councils of Chief Academic Officers and Provosts (2009), Unified Educational Enterprise (2009), and the Joint Boards of Education (2010) to include information literacy outcomes on their syllabi.

The [Oregon AAOT](#) states under “Foundational Requirements” that “Information Literacy will be included in the Writing Requirement” (2). However, under “Notes and Clarifications,” the Oregon AAOT states, “The ‘Foundational Requirements’ above represent minimal skill competencies. As such, they may be open to demonstration of competency. Each community college is encouraged to establish how students may demonstrate competency in lieu of completing the course(s)” (3).

We understand this language to make clear that information literacy outcomes, as part of the foundational requirements, fall outside any course-specific content impacted by our CCN alignment work because the requirement for these IL outcomes is not course-specific, but state-mandated for community colleges as part of the AAOT. As a result, if IL outcomes were counted as part of the aligned outcomes, community colleges would be restricted because the state-mandated IL outcome would have to be added within the space given by the additional 25% of course description or course learning outcome information allowed, according to the CCN [Systems & Operations Recommendation Report, dated 8/11/2022](#)." For example, for WR121Z, which has four outcomes and, as a result, can include a fifth, institution-specific outcome, that fifth outcome would have to be the IL outcome, even though said IL outcome is not institution-specific, but state-mandated.

This creates an equity issue, as Oregon public universities are not required to include explicit IL outcomes in WR 121Z, 122Z, and 227Z. This request is external to the charge of common course numbering. There is no compelling evidence to support putting more of a burden on community colleges by forcing them to include these state-mandated outcomes in course-specific outcomes. Transfer Council and HECC have already voted to approve these outcomes and institutions have begun moving forward with doing the work to include these changes. Therefore, we maintain that required IL outcomes be exempt from consideration as optional “additional statements that summarize any local course outcomes” (CCN Systems & Operations Recommendation Report, 8/11/2022).



Respectfully,

Co-chairs of the CCN WR Subcommittee

Leigh Graziano, Western Oregon University

Tim Jensen, Oregon State University

Tristan Striker, Linn-Benton Community College

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Members of the CCN Writing Subcommittee

Members of the Systems and Operations Subcommittee