

**DEFINITION FROM MHEC: English Composition**

English composition courses provide students with communication knowledge and skills appropriate to various writing situations, including intellectual inquiry and academic research. The minimum expectation in this category is one course (minimum 3 credit hours).

Upon successfully completing a sequence of two 3-credit courses in **English Composition**, students will be able to:

1. write about specific topics for specific audiences and purposes;
2. use a recursive writing process that includes: developing information, organizing, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading;
3. apply the principles of academic inquiry, including: identifying issues, formulating questions, finding relevant information, and incorporating information in their own writing using summary, paraphrase, and quotation;
4. conduct research using both print and electronic sources;
5. develop a clear thesis statement;
6. develop appropriate, adequate, unified, and coherent support for a thesis statement;
7. apply advanced conceptual skills: formulation, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation;
8. use a variety of rhetorical modes and strategies to develop essays;
9. document the use of print and electronic sources;
10. use the conventions of standard written U.S. English;
11. read sophisticated texts (that is, texts that do not include the kinds of outlines, headings, review questions, and highlight boxes that are frequently found in textbooks; examples of such texts include autobiographies, biographies, dramas, essays, fiction, nature or scientific writings, poetry, and public speeches) in order to understand meaning, nuance, and implications;
12. identify the “voice” (or “voices”) that is (or are) speaking in a sophisticated text, the implied and/or intended audience for that text, and the purpose, goal, or significance of that text;
13. for a sophisticated text, discuss the structure, the assumptions, the imagery, the language, the rhetorical devices, the biases, the purpose, and the meaning.