

**A Recommendation about Composition in the Core Curriculum  
Passed by Unanimous Vote  
May 8, 2012**

**Whereas:**

- 1) Written communication skills remain among the top abilities employers are seeking for the 21st century workforce;
- 2) The ability to write clearly and persuasively is one of the hallmarks of critical thinking;
- 3) The ability to write clearly and persuasively is essential for success at all levels of the undergraduate and graduate curriculum;
- 4) Written communication skills are a significant barrier to academic achievement for a large percentage of UHD students;
- 5) The most effective way to teach fundamental writing skills is through a devoted cadre of faculty trained and experienced at teaching composition;

**The UHD Faculty Senate Therefore Recommends:**

That, Three hours of the component area option be allotted to the Communications Component Committee, giving it a total of nine hours to be used for six required hours in composition and three required hours in communications.

Notes:

- 1) ACICS survey of 1,006 employers conducted in Nov. 2011 ranks written communication skills as 5<sup>th</sup> on a list of desirable skills for applicants, but near last in the actual ability of applicants.
- 4) Only 47% of the Fall 2009 FTIC cohort completed freshman composition in five long semesters. The Fall 2011 C or better passing rate for Eng 1301 was 62% and for Eng 1302 it was 55%.
- 5) The full-time coverage rate for Eng 1301 is 47% and for Eng 1302 it is 39%.