



# A Guide for Cadets: The West Point Writing Program

Overview & Key Responsibilities

About Signature Writing Events



**Why:** Thoughtful, effective writing is a cornerstone of successful officership. The West Point Writing Program is designed to provide all cadets with continuity and coherence in the course of your education in writing and communication—across the entire curriculum—so that you graduate prepared to answer the various demands of your professional environments and succeed as Army officers.

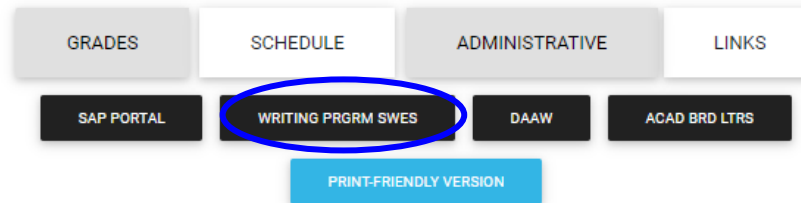
**What:** Find definitive, up-to-date information about the WPWP at [westpoint.edu/wpwp](https://westpoint.edu/wpwp).

**Where & When:** All cadets automatically complete courses in First Year Composition (FYC), Writing-in-the-Core (WiC), Writing-in-the-Major (WiM), and Writing-in-the-Profession (WiP) to gain proficiency and agility in writing across myriad disciplines, genres, audiences, and rhetorical situations over the entire forty-seven months (excepting validated courses).

**Key Responsibilities:** In every WPWP-linked course, cadets complete *Signature Writing Events* ([SWEs](#)). These courses and events are specifically designed to facilitate your growth as written communicators; SWEs enable you to demonstrate your learning in original, distinctive ways. Faculty assess SWEs via rubrics for evidence of your writing proficiency; these scores are separate from your grades.

**Key Consequences:** Cadets who consistently excel in their writing will access special opportunities and recognition. Cadets who repeatedly fail to demonstrate proficiency on SWEs, no matter what grade they receive for the course, may be directed to further opportunities to develop as writers, potentially including additional coursework.

FYC (1)	WiC (~5)	WiM (1/major)	WiP (2)
EN101 or EN151	<i>Some combination of:</i> HI105/155 · HI108/158 · CH102 · CH275 · PH202/252 · SP275 · MA206/256 · PL300/350 · SS307/357	<i>Varies</i> ( <a href="#">LIST</a> )	LW403 MX400



Click “Writing Prgrm SWEs” under the Administrative tab in CIS to learn more about the WPWP and Signature Writing.

### West Point Writing Program: Signature Writing Events

#### OVERVIEW:

All cadets participate in the West Point Writing Program (WPWP), which supports your development as thoughtful, effective communicators across the curriculum. In every academic course you take linked to the program, you will complete one Signature Writing Event (SWE). These assignments provide unique opportunities for you to demonstrate your growth and competency as a writer across many different genres and disciplines; taken together, they measure your overall proficiency and versatility. Most cadets complete around nine courses linked to the WPWP during their time at the Academy and thus nine SWEs.

#### WHAT IS AN SWE?

All Course Directors of WPWP-linked courses designate one graded event as a Signature Writing Event (SWE). All SWEs must be individually-authored; most are *prepared* writing assignments, though some require *on demand* writing. Whenever possible, these events also invite you to take greater ownership of your education by asking you to make original, innovative contributions to problems or topics that you yourselves define.

#### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I TURN IN MY SWE?

Sound writing skills are essential to officership. After you complete and submit your SWE, your instructor will grade your product and also assess it separately for evidence of your proficiency according to an Academy rubric. This assessment, visible to you in Canvas, is independent from the grade you receive on the assignment. You can pass the assignment but fail to demonstrate your proficiency as a writer, and vice versa. Although there are no graduation requirements specific to the WPWP, cadets who repeatedly fail to demonstrate proficiency may be directed to complete additional development.

#### FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION:

Monitor your SWE results in Canvas. Consult the West Point Writing Program website for additional information.

You may monitor your SWE results in Canvas. Any unscored SWEs will not adversely impact you or your graduation; there are no graduation requirements specific to the WPWP.