Guide for Cadets Enrolled in WPWP-linked Courses

SLIDE 2: Overview + Core Responsibilities
SLIDE 3: How to check your SWE results in CIS
SLIDE 4: SWE Rubric
SLIDE 5: WPWP Big Picture

Questions? Email wpwp@westpoint.edu.
1. **Why:** Effective writing is a cornerstone of successful officership. As a result, the West Point Writing Program (WPWP) ensures that all cadets are educated in writing and communicating across the curriculum.

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

3. **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 in writing across disciplines over the entire forty-seven months (excepting validated courses).

4. **Key Responsibilities:** In every WPWP-linked course, cadets complete **Sig nature Writing Events** (**SWEs**). WPWP-linked courses 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 in CIS for evidence of your writing proficiency; these scores are separate from your grades.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FYC (1)</th>
<th>WiC (~5)</th>
<th>WiM (1/major)</th>
<th>WiP (2)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>EN101</strong></td>
<td>2. HI105/155 · HI108/158</td>
<td>7. Course Varies (LIST)</td>
<td>8. LW403</td>
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<td>or <strong>EN151</strong></td>
<td>3. CH102 · PH202/252 · CH275</td>
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<td>9. MX400</td>
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<td>4. MA206/256</td>
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<td>5. PL300/350</td>
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<td>6. SS307/357</td>
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WPWP: How to check your SWE results in CIS

Click the “Writing Prgrm SWEs” tab under the Administrative tab in CIS to view your results.

Key Info about SWEs

OVERVIEW:
All cadets participate in the West Point Writing Program (WPWP), which supports your development as thoughtful, effective communicators across all domains of your education. Throughout your time at West Point, 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. Visit our homepage to download a quick How-To Guide for the WPWP.

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 you yourselves define.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I TURN IN MY SWE?
After your instructor receives your SWE, he or she will grade your product but also assess it separately for evidence of your proficiency as a writer according to this WPWP rubric. This assessment, completed in AMS and visible to you in CIS, 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.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR HOW I PERFORM ON AN SWE?
Sound writing skills are expected of all college graduates, and they are essential to citizenship. This premise informs the consequences for various levels of performance.
- Cadets who demonstrate exemplary proficiency as writers on a wide range of SWEs will receive various forms of recognition and become eligible to compete for special prizes, such as the Thompson Memorial Award for Writing across the Curriculum.
- Cadets marked as “Not Proficient” on an SWE in First-Year Composition (EN101 or EN151) may have to re-take the course at the discretion of the Course Director.
- Cadets marked as “Not Proficient” on one SWE in WPWP-linked courses beyond EN101 or EN151 will receive counseling and further information from WPWP leadership on additional opportunities and resources to aid your development as a writer.
- Cadets marked as “Not Proficient” on multiple SWEs in WPWP-linked courses beyond EN101 or EN151 will have their work closely examined by WPWP leaders; pending review, you may be required to complete additional writing development, including STAP coursework.

Note: any SWE results that appear as “Incomplete” (SWEs not scored by your instructor) will not adversely affect you or your graduation; there are no graduation requirements specific to the WPWP.
The image below depicts the rubric that faculty use to assess your SWEs for every course linked to the WPWP. Rubrics for your SWEs are available to you at the end of every semester in CIS (slide 3).

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<th>M</th>
<th>NP</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. <strong>SUBSTANCE:</strong> Expresses ideas, arguments, or findings with insight, nuance, and precision. Enlists credible, relevant evidence; develops sound logic and convincing analysis.</td>
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<td>2. <strong>ORGANIZATION:</strong> Structures work according to appropriate disciplinary or generic expectations. Develops orderly, cohesive paragraphs or sections as well as a clear, logical flow guided by effective transitions.</td>
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<td>3. <strong>STYLE &amp; PRESENTATION:</strong> Models style suitable to the genre or discipline, e.g. with regard to tone or diction. Adheres to conventions in formatting, layout, elements of visual rhetoric, etc.</td>
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<td>4. <strong>MECHANICS &amp; CORRECTNESS:</strong> Uses language with clarity, accuracy, and concision. Errors or awkwardness that are present do not significantly impede understanding.</td>
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<td>5. <strong>DOCUMENTATION:</strong> Documentation is correct and complete according to the applicable standard.</td>
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**OVERALL PROFICIENCY:** Communicates effectively on the whole. Responds adequately to the assignment, demonstrating understanding of its audience, context, and purpose.  

**ADDITIONAL COMMENT:** Briefly explain why this SWE does not demonstrate overall proficiency. Where specifically must the author improve? (Required only for Overall Non-Proficiency.)
Additional information about the West Point Writing Program (WPWP) always available at westpoint.edu/wpwp.

All Cadets

- Complete courses in FYC (1), WiC (~5), WiM (1), WiP (2) to gain proficiency in writing across disciplines.
- Complete Signature Writing Events (SWEs) in every WPWP-linked course; non-proficiency on multiple SWEs (as assessed by faculty and WPWP leaders) may trigger further developmental requirements.

First Year Composition (FYC)

EN101 or EN151

Semesters 1 or 2

Writing-in-the-Core (WiC)

Some combination of:
CH102, CH275, PH202/52, MA206/56
HI105/55, HI108/58, PL300/50, SS307/57

Semesters 2-7

Signature Writing Events

Writing-in-the-Profession (WiP)

MX400 + LW403

Semesters 1 or 2

Writing-in-the-Major (WiM)

One Course in Major

Semesters 3-8

MOUnger Writing Center

- One-on-one consultations, group workshops, and special events for all cadets and faculty.
- Support for any communications project, for any purpose (academic, personal, professional).

Select Faculty

- Observe relevant WPWP Curricular Standards and choose aspects of WPWP Pedagogical Model to use in courses.
- Complete WPWP Assessment Rubrics via AMS for SWEs.

Writing Fellows Program

- Guides the progressive academic and professional development of selected Cadet Writing Fellows.
- Provides specialized support to all faculty as writers and teachers of writing via WPWP leaders and contracted consultants: workshops, bootcamps, individual advising, online resources.
- Partners with expert academics and distinguished professionals to facilitate enrichment through on-post colloquia, speaker series, and site visits.