

WAC PLAN FOR ENGINEERING MAJORS

I. Goal (Description of good writing)

The goal for the writing-intensive courses in the Engineering Department is for students to become acquainted with and proficient in writing different styles of technical reports and research papers. These reports/papers are many times a form of communication between the engineer and a lay-person; therefore, the writing must be clear, understandable by a large audience, consistent, and accurate. The writing style should be precise and to the point with minimal/no errors in grammar and mechanics. There is no specific format required for engineering; however, reports/papers should always be consistent within a single report/paper and follow a logical order.

Reports/papers can vary from one-two page letters or memoranda that are written like a formal letter to long technical reports that contain Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, and other relevant sections written to a wide audience. Common conventions, such as how to use abbreviations, writing versus spelling numbers, consistency with units, and labeling of Tables and Figures, are the same for any type of report/paper.

Formatting citations and references can vary based on the engineering discipline, conference, journal, etc. For Industrial Engineering majors, our department has chosen the American Psychological Association (APA) style for in-text citations and reference list as this is a style frequently seen in Industrial Engineering.

II. Writing Courses

INE 3200 Work Analysis and Design, 29-36 pp. (six 1-2 page letters/memos, two 3-4 page short reports, two 7-8 page team written long reports), 35% of course grade (Bauer)

EGR 4900 Engineering and Society, 35-48 pp. (eight 2-3 page reaction papers, one 3-4 page literature review, one 6-8 page team written capstone project proposal, one 10-12 page research paper), 65% of course grade (Bauer)

III. Rubrics

Included as separate files