



## ENGL Placement Guide for Advisors

Composition Program | Department of English

Summer 2021

Please send any questions about ENGL placement to [composition@vt.edu](mailto:composition@vt.edu).

### What is the Strong Start for Writing Placement Inventory (SSWPI)?

Given the transition to test-optional reporting for admission to Virginia Tech, **SAT/ACT scores will NOT be used to determine ENGL placement.** Instead, the Composition Program has developed the SSWPI to determine students' ENGL placement. The SSWPI consists of nine pairs of statements about students' writing preparation and proficiency. Within each pair, students select the statement that best describes their experiences with writing, reading, and literacy in high school and elsewhere. It takes students approximately 5 minutes to complete, and students cannot re-take the SSWPI or edit their answers once it has been submitted.

### Who completes the SSWPI?

**All incoming first-year and transfer students are required to complete the SSWPI in their Applicant Portal.** If students expect to bring in ENGL credit, they will still complete the SSWPI as part of their admissions process.

### When do students complete the SSWPI?

Students have seven (7) days to complete the SSWPI after it becomes available in their Application Portal, typically within one week of their acceptance deadline (e.g., May 1 for regular decision applications). If students have not completed it within seven (7) days, they will be notified by Admissions that they have three (3) additional days to complete it. The SSWPI will remain available for completion after the deadline with the caveat that seats may not be available and the English Department will not be able to adjust the number of sections it offers past July 15.

### How do I find a student's writing placement?

**ENGL placement will display on the Orientation page in HokieSPA** and will include both the raw SSWPI score as well as the assigned ENGL placement. See pages 3 and 4 for example ENGL placements.

SSWPI Score	ENGL Placement
3.1 - 10.6	1105
0.0 - 3.0	1106
None	English Assessment must be completed

### **What if a student still needs to complete their English Assessment?**

If a student has an English Assessment Score of “None,” the student has not yet completed the SSWPI. Direct the student to complete the SSWPI in their Applicant Portal. Once the student has completed the SSWPI, their ENGL placement will be available in HokieSPA ~24 hours later. **Completion of the SSWPI is a prerequisite for ENGL 1105 and ENGL 1106.**

### **What if a student has transfer credit?**

If a student self-reported AP, IB, CLEP, or other credit, they were batch-enrolled based on their *expected* transfer credit. If a student did not self-report credit, but does have or expects to have transfer credit, make an ENGL placement recommendation based on information in the Transfer Guide:

<https://www.registrar.vt.edu/Advanced-Standing-Transferable-Credit.html>. If a student expected to earn transfer credit but did not, use their SSWPI placement score to enroll the student as appropriate.

### **What if a student brings in transfer credit for ENGL 1106 but not ENGL 1105?**

If the student has earned a C or higher in the course receiving transfer credit, the student will not need to take ENGL 1105 at VT. If the student has earned a C- or lower, the student will need to take both ENGL 1105 and 1106 at VT.

### **ENGL 1106 Placement: Advanced Standing**

Students who place into 1106 based on their SSWPI score are awarded 3 hours of Advanced Standing credit for 1105 if they earn a C or higher on their first attempt at 1106. Students who drop the course before the *Last Day to Drop a Class Without Grade Penalty* deadline will retain the chance for Advanced Standing credit and may re-enroll in ENGL 1106. They must still earn a C or better when they complete the course. Students who either withdraw from or make a grade of C- or lower on the first attempt at ENGL 1106 will not earn Advanced Standing credit. They must then take the full sequence of ENGL 1105 + ENGL 1106. Only students who place into 1106 based on their SSWPI score may skip ENGL 1105 and receive pass/fail credit for it.

### **How does the ENGL 1105 waitlist work?**

There are two waitlists for 1105 that serve to maintain an accurate count of students who still need a seat in 1105. Students on the waitlists will NOT be automatically placed into open sections. **As you work with and place your advisees, please remove their names from the waitlists.** No waitlist exists for ENGL 1106.

### **How can students force-add ENGL 1105 or 1106?**

Students will NOT be force-added into full sections unless there is a formally-documented medical need or the course is required for graduation that semester. All force-adds must go through Jennifer Mooney (jenmoon@vt.edu).

## Example 1: Student Placed into 1105

Orientation Information	
Current as of: June 02, 2021	
<b>Incoming Term:</b>	Fall 2021
<b>Incoming Major:</b>	(BUS) - Business, Undecided
<b>Incoming College:</b>	Business
ENGL placement information has been updated. Math and Chem scores will be available later this summer.	
MATH Information	
<b>Math Assessment Score:</b>	Not Yet Evaluated
ENGLISH Information	
<b>English Assessment Score:</b>	5.5
<b>English Placement:</b>	<b>ENGL 1105</b> <b>ENGL 1105 Will automatically be assigned</b>
CHEMISTRY Information	
<b>Chemistry Assessment Score:</b>	Not Yet Evaluated

## Example 2: Student Placed into 1106

Orientation Information	
Current as of: June 02, 2021	
<b>Incoming Term:</b>	Fall 2021
<b>Incoming Major:</b>	(BUS) - Business, Undecided
<b>Incoming College:</b>	Business
ENGL placement information has been updated. Math and Chem scores will be available later this summer.	
MATH Information	
<b>Math Assessment Score:</b>	Not Yet Evaluated
ENGLISH Information	
<b>English Assessment Score:</b>	0
<b>English Placement:</b>	<b>ENGL 1106</b> <b>ENGL 1106 Will automatically be assigned</b>
CHEMISTRY Information	
<b>Chemistry Assessment Score:</b>	Not Yet Evaluated
Student Self-Reported Test Scores - Advance Placement Information	
<b>UG_SR_AP:World History:</b>	4
<b>UG_SR_AP:ENGL Lang Comp:</b>	5
<b>UG_SR_AP:U.S. History:</b>	5
<b>UG_SR_AP:Calculus AB:</b>	5
<b>UG_SR_AP:Calculus BC:</b>	5
<b>UG_SR_AP:Psychology:</b>	4

A score of "0" is an ENGL placement of 1106.

A score of "5" on the AP Lang test will give the student credit for ENGL 1105 and 1106. If the score is accepted and recorded, the student will not need to take 1106 at VT, despite an SSWPI placement of 1106.

### Example 3: Student has not taken SSWPI

Orientation Information	
Current as of: June 02, 2021	
<b>Incoming Term:</b>	Fall 2021
<b>Incoming Major:</b>	(BUS) - Business, Undecided
<b>Incoming College:</b>	Business
ENGL placement information has been updated. Math and Chem scores will be available later this summer.	
MATH Information	
<b>Math Assessment Score:</b>	Not Yet Evaluated
ENGLISH Information	
<b>English Assessment Score:</b>	None
<b>English Placement:</b>	English Assessment must be completed
CHEMISTRY Information	
<b>Chemistry Assessment Score:</b>	Not Yet Evaluated

