

Academic Courses Changing  
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## English courses under review

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Students at Kishwaukee College who have not yet taken English 103 and English 104 may find that is in the changing process. These courses are periodically reviewed by the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) General Education Communication Panel. The panel decided last spring that the 2500-word research paper requirement must be fulfilled in one course, not divided between two courses.

As of right now, Kishwaukee College students fulfill the requirement by writing one 5-8-page paper in English 103 and one 5-8-page paper in English 104.

I spoke with Esther DiMarzio of the English Department who has served on the IAI (Illinois Articulation Initiative) Communication Panel for 8 years, and served as co-chair for 7 years. She explained to me how the IAI panel reviews syllabi for writing instruction and writing requirements.

The panel reviews syllabi to make sure that the skills learned at one college are comparable to those learned at other colleges that abide by IAI standards. By agreeing to conform to these standards, colleges can guarantee students that their courses will transfer smoothly from one institution to another within Illinois.

To conform to the revised requirement, the Kishwaukee College English Department is re-considering the curriculum for English 103 and 104. Logically, students would work on their essay writing skills in English 103 and progress to the longer research paper in English 104.

However, not all degrees require that students take English 104, such as nursing degrees. If students in English classes don't write the research paper until second semester, this may put nursing students at a disadvantage.

Therefore, one consideration the department is making is keeping a research overview in English 103. This way the course could focus on rhetoric and composition, but still provide some research skills.

Esther hopes students will take advantage of the library resources available to them. For students who won't get much research instruction and have to write papers for other classes, the library offers walk-in research assistance. The reference desk is a good place to start when you're starting the research process. The library also offers citation cards and a handout that contains all the searchable databases used to research.

The final decisions on the English 103 and 104 curriculum changes will occur by spring semester, and changes will start the fall 2008 semester. The English department will have to consider selecting new textbooks when the change is made.