

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE**

**English Language
& Literature**

**ENG 101-E: A
Faculty-Led Initiative
to Increase Student
Success & Retention**

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First-Year Writing at SIUE

- ENG 101-E is one of a palette of first-year writing classes offered to SIUE students:
 - ENG 101: Introduction & practice in analyzing & composing the academic expository essay
 - ENG 102: Building on ENG 101, with emphasis on argumentation & critical synthesis of information based on research
 - (ENG 101-N and 102-N are offered to international students whose first language is not English)
 - **ENG 101-E: The same as ENG 101, but designed to help prepare students who need additional time and/or assistance to prepare for the challenges of ENG 102**

ENG 101-E & Students

- ENG 101-E students are at a higher risk of leaving the university due to many reasons:
 - A low GPA in high school, poor test scores, or else a variety of life challenges
- ENG 101-E has an additional **two-hour lab**, which offers granular, scaffolded assistance with writing tasks
- Also allows instructors to spend more time getting to know their students

ENG 101-E & The Lab Guide

- **The Lab Guide** is available to all FYW instructors, but it was designed specifically for ENG 101-E, with principles & activities geared towards helping students become better writers, be more connected, be more thoughtful and responsible:
 - Encouraging community
 - Helping them develop helpful writing, thinking, and academic routines
 - Asking them to reflect on their academic goals & create actionable plans
 - Assisting them to build more confidence in their writing skills
 - Making college-level work pleasurable & satisfying
 - Emphasizing the value of play & experimentation in scholarship
 - Being transparent about expectations & accountability
 - Scaffolding larger/more difficult writing tasks into manageable pieces
 - Devoting time to handle challenges with personal/individual technology or other university resources

ENG 101-E & Instructors

- Smaller class sizes (maximum 16 students vs. 24 for 101/102): It is often in only these classes where instructors & students all know each others' names
- New ENG101-E instructors attend a training session to cover the purpose & structure of the courses
- Beyond "English Composition", these instructors are also teaching students about university cultures, practices, basic technical/computing skills, and collaborative learning strategies
- Students often exchange contact information & offer each other mutual support
- Many ENG 101-E instructors make permanent or semi-permanent small groups to increase student comfort levels with group interaction
- Instructors model constructive, supportive feedback so that students trust each other with their written work

English Majors & Community Building

Sigma Tau Delta is the International English Honors Society. The organization promotes interest in literature, language, and writing, with an emphasis on community building.

- Monthly meetings open to members, non-members, majors, and non-majors.
- Monthly open-mic held on and off campus.
- Writing & Book Club collaboration with the Lovejoy Library on a weekly / monthly basis.
- Literacy outreach initiatives to the local community each year.

English Majors & Community Building

Department Led Efforts include conversations with majors each semester.

- Fall: Careers with an English Major
 - Career paths for majors
 - Testimonials from alumni
 - Information provided by the Career Development Center
- Spring: Graduate School for English Majors
 - Researching graduate schools
 - Application materials
 - Examples and samples