

**Statement of Rationale for ME 196 – Engineering Seminar – Faith, Technology and Christian
Responsibility – Writing Intensive**

FROM THE GE COMMITTEE COMBINED DOCUMENT

Certification Criteria for Writing-Intensive Courses

The syllabus explicitly identifies the course as writing-intensive, and it clearly defines expectations for performance. Students are informed that their work will be evaluated for clarity and style * in addition to content.

1. The course requires sufficient writing: at least four papers totaling at least 16 pages.

Writing is spread throughout the course in a sequence of related assignments rather than concentrated in a large paper at the end. These activities may include journal writing, article reviews, essays, research papers, scientific lab reports, business reports and plans, lab abstracts, paper revision and editing assignments, peer reviewing and editing, etc.

2. The course provides significant writing instruction or includes a substantive assignment in which students submit at least one draft for comments from the professor and then revise the draft to take account of these comments. Rewrites are typically treated as 1/3 of the original.

* Specifically, student should be graded on

☐ their ability to construct a clear central message that includes purposeful and inviting ideas, insightful arguments and reasons to accept these arguments, relevant and substantive supporting material, and various audience-centered appeals

☐ the organization of their messages, providing appropriately creative introductions, compelling and strategic structure, smooth transitions, and an effective conclusion

☐ their communication style, engaging their audiences with discipline-appropriate language use and artfully constructed sentences.

How the ME 196 course aligns with the writing intensive requirements:

The syllabus clearly states that the course is a writing intensive course and that the course is intended to fulfill the “writing inside the major” requirement as specified in the GE graduation requirements for Westmont. Details for the writing assignments are specified in the syllabus.

Students will be asked to write four papers in this course.

- 1- a short paper (~2 pages) that discusses how the American Society of Mechanical Engineering Ethics code relates to an engineering project of their choice.
- 2- A paper (~4 pages) that describes, from a biblical perspective, their thoughts on how faith and engineering (or science) relate. This paper is focused on the biblical perspective, not their personal experience or thoughts.
- 3- A paper (~10 pages) that provides an overview of a book that of their choice (and a variety of hard copy books are provided for them to use if they choose) in the area of how engineering (or science in general) relates to faith.
- 4- Paper #3 above will be reviewed by the engineering course instructor and by someone from the “writing assistance center” or English department. Students will perform a major re-write of this paper based on those reviews.

The evaluation criteria for the papers will include:

- i) A well-developed central message
- ii) A thesis or central argument with thoughtful arguments and good supporting material
- iii) A good organization and flow for the paper including introductions, good transitions, and effective conclusion(s)
- iv) Appropriate references