



What is the First-Year Writing Decision Tool?

The First-Year Writing Decision Tool is a brief survey made up of reflective questions about your experience as a writer and a student of writing, as well as what kinds of things you plan to study and do in your first year at WFU. Since the tool is meant to be used to help you make an informed decision about which first-year writing course to take, all entering, first-year and transfer students should complete the First-year Writing Decision Tool prior to registering for classes. All students are required to take a writing class; it isn't possible to exempt—not through AP or IB credit or any other way.

The First-year Writing Decision Tool is different from the Foreign Language Placement Tests or the ALEKS placement test for math. Both the ALEKS and the foreign language placement tests will assign a course to you based on your results, and you will have to register for that class unless you get special permission from the department. In contrast, the decision tool is meant to help you reflect on your own experience and plans in order to choose for yourself what course you'd like to take. The writing program will not tell you which course to take, that is up to you—but you must take either WRI 111 or WRI 109/110 to fulfill the writing requirement.

After answering the reflective questions, you will be shown a number of short stories, or “profiles,” that tell how hypothetical students made their registration decisions. Which profiles populate at the end of the survey is determined by your answers to the reflective questions and are meant to mirror aspects of your own experience and situation. While these profiles will not match your experience and situation perfectly, you can use the profiles, along with your responses to the reflective questions, to help you decide which writing course to take.

We estimate that the decision tool will take between five and fifteen minutes to complete.

