FAQ: Engl 105 at UNC

1) Do I have to take 105 in my first year?

Yes. Engl 105 is central to the first-year experience at UNC-Chapel Hill. You will be enrolled in a section during either Fall or Spring semester through a block enrollment process. Once you are in a section, we recommend that you keep that section as seats in 105 are usually limited, especially in the Fall semester.

2) Can I take Engl 105 in the summer?

Yes! For Summer 2020 Engl 105 will be offered as an online, asynchronous course. This means that you can enroll in any section. You will not meet with your class “live” but participate in a series of paced activities each day.

3) How do I know if a summer section of Engl 105 is right for me?

You should be prepared for a fast-paced course that will require daily commitment to reading, writing, and discussions with your peers in an online course management system, Sakai.
Your instructor will be available to meet with you during live office hours, but you should be prepared to work independently on a fast-paced schedule of class activities.

Because the course is asynchronous, you will not need to meet at a specific time each day, but you should have the ability to get online **every day** to complete the days’ assignments on Sakai.

Technical requirements for an online course include:

- Computer equipped with a web browser (ideally Mozilla Firefox)
- Internet access

4) What is 105i and why should I take it?

English 105i is a more specialized variant of the standard English 105 course. Both courses satisfy the Composition and Rhetoric (CR) Foundation requirement, and you are invited to take either course.

Engl 105i focuses on a specific discipline, while Engl 105 is a survey of multiple disciplines. Currently, we offer the following versions of 105i:

- Writing in the Natural Sciences
- Writing in the Social Sciences
- Writing in the Humanities
- Writing in Business
- Writing in law
- Writing in Health and Medicine
- Writing in the Digital Humanities

Assignments in these courses are coordinated so that students receive intensive training in communication within an academic discipline as they develop fundamental writing skills and practice oral communication. These sections are ideal for students who already have decided on a major. For more information about each 105i course, [click here](#).

5) I didn’t get into a 105 section in the Fall semester. What should I do?

First-year students should note that not everyone will be able to enroll in their first semester. We have enough seats each semester for roughly half of the incoming class. If they do not get a seat for Fall after summer orientation, they will be enrolled into a Spring section.

Students should not contact instructors seeking to “sit in” on fully-enrolled ENGL 105/105i classes. If they are trying to enroll and no seats are available (especially in Fall), they should...
check Connect Carolina for available seats. Enrollment is usually easier in Spring semester and it is fine for incoming first years to wait until then to enroll.

You can also check Connect Carolina for available seats in summer sessions, if you think a summer online course might work for you.

If you are unable to enroll in ENGL 105 immediately during your summer registration period, please follow the directions provided to you from the Office of Academic Advising. You may phone 919-962-HELP or look online at advising.unc.edu/newstudents for further information about enrolling in classes if you need assistance. As instructed, The Writing Program office in the Department of English and Comparative Literature will refer all calls about registration for fall classes to the Office of Academic Advising.

6) How is 105 different from the writing instruction I got in high school?

English 105 is a writing-across-the-disciplines course designed to introduce students to what it means to write at a top public university. Research is central to UNC’s mission, and the goal of this course is to prepare you for the kinds of research and writing faculty and students do to fulfill that mission. To give you a sense of just how different the work in this course may be from writing courses you have taken in the past, take a look at this humorous short video. Obviously, some of the formats you see here will be modified for the short term in light of Covid-19, but the heart of the course—collaboration, work with real-world significance and impact, etc.—will stay in place no matter whether you take the course online, in person or through some combination of the two formats.

In this course you will analyze the rhetorical and stylistic conventions that govern professional and academic writing in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Studying and practicing the conventions of writing in different disciplines will help you become a more versatile writer, which in turn should help you in other college courses. You also will become more aware of how audience expectations and context influence your work and give it shape and direction. Students enrolled in English 105 will learn to:

1. use conventions, genres, and rhetoric practiced in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities
2. conduct research using a variety of academic databases and sources
3. understand how to use research as evidence in discipline-specific compositions
4. compose using written, oral, and multimedia modes
5. review and revise your own work and assist others in revising their work
English 105 will also introduce you to the resources available on campus for research and writing, from special collections in Wilson Library to the Media Resource Center to Ackland Art Museum. Drawing on these resources, you will develop research questions, assess and synthesize information, and create effective research-based compositions for a range of audiences and genres.

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<tr>
<th>Engl 105 involves:</th>
<th>High school courses typically involves:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Composing in real-world genres such as proposals, reports, journal articles.</td>
<td>Composing “essays” or “papers” written for the teacher.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Researching projects in a variety of disciplines like Natural Science, Social Science, and Humanities.</td>
<td>Composing general writing assignments, not tied to specific academic disciplines or majors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engaging with opportunities for research, including methods like surveys, data analysis, or close-readings.</td>
<td>Conducting research that is narrowly focused and that consists mainly of looking up articles and quoting sources.</td>
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<td>Composing and producing final projects in several mediums, including oral, written, and digital formats.</td>
<td>Writing primarily traditional text-based papers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providing models of target genres to determine the style, format, and medium for all projects.</td>
<td>Examining formats of “papers,” with emphasis on elements such as double-spaced, with a length, font, and other features specified by the teacher.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engaging students with readings based on topics chosen by students for their writing projects. Readings serve as models of the genre or as research material for individual projects.</td>
<td>Examining assigned readings about content from a textbook, novel, reader, or book. Students write about the assigned readings.</td>
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7) What can I expect from my 105 class?

Your course will consist of three units. In Engl 105, those three units will be Writing in the Natural Sciences, Writing in the Social Sciences or Business, and Writing in the Humanities. For Engl 105i classes, the units will reflect different aspects of a given discipline.
In each unit, you will be asked to produce a genre, such as a literature review or a recommendation report, that is practiced by faculty and professionals in a specific discipline or profession. You will be asked to take on a role and to act “as if” you are members of each of these disciplines. Your goal will be to learn about the writing style, research methods, values, and practices that shape writing in each community and to display that type of writing in your own work.

All Engl 105/105i classes are:

- **Project-based:** The three unit projects will engage you in rhetorical situations that explore real-world contexts for writing and research that start from a problem or research question.
- **Genre-based:** The projects will include a range of genres, forms, and mediums. You will get experience with genres such as the conference paper, journal article, business pitch, digital exhibit, or recommendation report. These genres will offer spoken and written modes as well as different mediums—including print and digital formats.
- **Research-based:** You will undertake research projects that involve a variety of research methods. These methods could include research with library databases and resources or other types of empirical methods, such as interviews, observations, or experimentation.
- **Publication-oriented:** Addressing an audience (not the teacher/grader) is key. Engl 105/105i students are asked to “publish” their projects using portfolios, presentations, digital venues, or submissions to journals.

8) **What is Engl 100? Do I get credit for my AP course? Can I get transfer credit?**

For more information about placement into Engl 100, AP credit, and procedures for transfer students, please consult the [Writing Program website](https://www.writingprogram.org).