



DIMENSIONS OF CULTURE PROGRAM  
THURGOOD MARSHALL COLLEGE  
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## RE: The Dimensions of Culture Program

The University of California San Diego does not have an English Department or “Freshman Composition” courses per se. Instead, each of our eight undergraduate colleges houses its own writing program as part of its general education requirements. The Dimensions of Culture Program (DOC) is the core curriculum and writing program at UC San Diego’s Thurgood Marshall College.

Admissions officers reviewing applicants’ UC San Diego transcripts should understand that successful completion of the lower-division DOC sequence satisfies the University of California Writing Requirement. Students must have satisfied the University’s Entry Level Writing Requirement – formerly “Subject A” – before enrolling in DOC 2 or DOC 3. (See <http://awp.ucsd.edu/elwr>.)

Students enrolled in DOC attend three lectures per week taught by faculty with rigorous interdisciplinary training that qualifies them to teach critical reading, writing, and thinking through an exploration of questions of diversity, justice, and imagination in American society. Teaching Assistants who are graduate students in a range of departments lead discussion sections. These Teaching Assistants are trained extensively by the program Director and Associate Director in best practices for the instruction of writing. DOC 1 requires one hour of discussion section per week in addition to lecture, and is worth four quarter units. DOC 2 and DOC 3 require two hours of section per week in addition to lectures, and these two courses are each taken for six quarter units. In each of the six-unit courses, students write and revise assignments weekly so that by the end of each quarter, students will have written and revised 5,000 to 7,500 words total. This robust drafting and revision process does not include shorter scaffolded assignments produced in-class and on demand. DOC composition instruction thus emphasizes training the students in a sustained writing process.

DOC curriculum is grounded in content-driven writing instruction. By the end of the sequence, DOC students are expected to: 1) develop and refine critical thinking skills; 2) develop an ability to read, understand, and critique texts in diverse genres; 3) revise written work on a rhetorical level (in respect to thesis or claim, argument, evidence, and analysis) and on a sentence level (in respect to grammar, tone, syntax, style); 4) develop arguments in a logical and effective way, and 5) learn and follow a proper citation format.

For more information about the Dimensions of Culture Program courses, please see:  
<http://marshall.ucsd.edu/doc>.

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