

# The Student's Guide to Directed Self-Placement



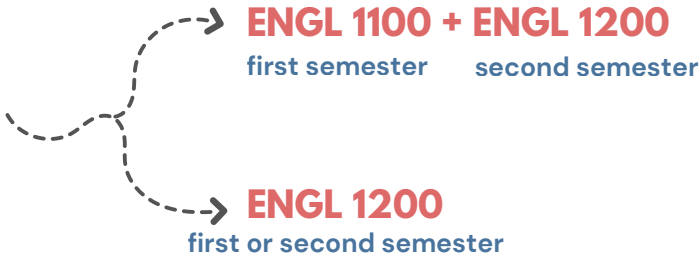
## What is Directed Self-Placement (DSP)?



DSP is a process through which you choose your first-year writing path (one course or two). The process includes a longer survey in which you reflect on your experiences with writing, how confident you feel about your writing skills, and your expectations for college-level writing. It also includes a one-question survey where you make your course selection. You take both surveys in D2L, PennWest's Learning Management System.



## What are the two different paths?



## DSP Quick Facts

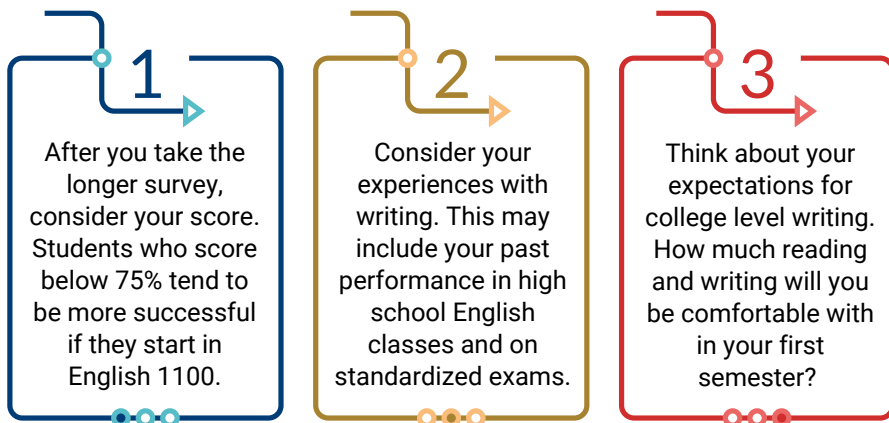
- In Fall 2024, 62% of new students chose to start in ENGL 1100.
- Students who score below 75% on the survey are more likely to choose ENGL 1100.

English 1100, Introduction to College Composition, counts for three General Education credits. This course helps students develop core skills in drafting, focusing, organizing, and revising their writing and helps students transition into college-level writing. If you select English 1100, you will take it in your first semester and then follow it up with English 1200, College Composition, in your next semester. English 1200 is required as part of the PennWest's General Education program. This course focuses more on argument, analysis, academic reading and research, and writing with outside sources.



## How do I know which path is best for me?

Work through this process to make an informed choice about your first-year writing path.



## Need some help?

If you need guidance about your course choice, please reach out to:

Dr. Leah Chambers  
Faculty Director of First-Year Academic Success  
lchambers@pennwest.edu



For more information and directions for accessing your placements, scan the QR code and view "Undergraduate Next Steps."