Accounting Writing Assessment Info Session and Skills Workshop

Online Writing Assessment
Fall 2020
Introductions

Carl Follmer
Accounting Writing Program Director

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Director of the Undergraduate Accounting Program
Agenda

Overview of writing program and assessment

Describe the assessment’s procedure

Offer resources to prepare

Answer questions

Workshop skills necessary for the assessment
Why a writing assessment?

Builds on the strength of the Department of Accounting writing program

• An integrated writing program identified as a “model for the academic community” and “significant advantage for Tippie’s accounting students” during the 2014 & 2019 AACSB re-accreditations

Writing as essential for success

• In Accounting courses
• In professional life
Who must take the assessment?

All students who plan to enroll in Accounting major courses must pass the assessment.

Students must only pass the assessment once – no need to take it again later
Do I have to take the assessment?

If you have already completed Business Communication and Protocol (BUS:3000) and received a grade of B- or higher (or a P grade in the Spring 2020 semester) you do not have to take the writing assessment.

If you have not completed BUS:3000 you must take the writing assessment in the Fall 2020 semester for access to Accounting major courses in Spring 2021.

If you are currently taking BUS:3000 this semester, you should still take the writing assessment to have a passing score in time for early registration.
Who is eligible to take the assessment?

You must have previously completed or be currently enrolled in a Fall 2020 session of ACCT:2200 Managerial Accounting (or course equivalent) to be eligible for this assessment.
Dates and locations for the Fall assessment

The assessment will be administered virtually on ICON from October 5-October 12, 2020.

Please [register for the Fall 2020 assessment](#) to receive an invitation to the assessment’s ICON site.
What do I need to take the assessment?

You will need a computer, internet connection, and access to the Accounting Admission Writing Assessment ICON site.

When you register for the assessment, you will be automatically enrolled on the ICON site.
Format of the assessment

75 minute assessment
- Read a short article (WSJ or NY Times) and write a brief essay

Summarize the article and analyze the article’s content

Summary (1/4-1/3 of essay) and analysis should flow together

The essay must have a clear thesis statement that guides the analysis.
What skills will be assessed?

Five categories (4 point scale for each):

- **Micro Skills** (grammar and usage)
- **Thesis Statement** (thesis for the analysis part of your essay)
- **Development** of summary and analysis paragraphs
- **Clarity** and precision of word choices
- **Style** (ease of reading, limited use of passive voice, professional tone)
In order to succeed...

There **MUST** be an argument (not just *summary*)

There **MUST** be a clear thesis statement (1-2 sentences that detail your argument)

- Should be arguable
- “The article talks about...” is not a thesis
- “In this essay I will discuss...” is not a thesis
- “Glass bottles are better for the environment than plastic bottles because...” *is* the beginning of a thesis statement
Scoring the assessment

Each category scored on a scale from 1.0 – 4.0

Maximum total score is 20, minimum is 5
  • Score of 15.5 or higher reflects acceptable writing performance
  • Score of 12.5 reflects minimum writing proficiency

Score of 10.0 or above will be considered a passing score for this assessment

Scores between 8.5-10.5 receive a 2nd reading; 3rd reader as a tie-breaker if needed
When do I learn my results?

Students notified by e-mail starting on October 30 about their assessment score

Students who wish to know their scores in each category or to discuss any questions about their assessment score should contact Carl Follmer

Individual score sheets can be requested by contacting Carl Follmer at carl-Follmer@uiowa.edu

Essays are property of the department and are not returned
What if I do not pass?

Students who do not pass will not be allowed access to Accounting major courses for the Spring 2021 semester.

Students may take the writing assessment again in the Spring 2021 semester for access to Accounting major courses during the Fall 2021 semester.

Meet with your advisor about other majors and course options.
Resources for preparation

**Writing Assessment page** on the Accounting Writing Program website

- **Instruction and FAQ sheet**: instructions and answers to questions many students have

- **Writing Assessment Tip Sheet**: advice on taking the assessment

- **Sample grade sheet**

Frank Center’s **Preparing for the Accounting Writing Assessment**

Micro skills and macro skills pages on the **Accounting Writing Program website**
Additional resources

Practice articles in the Frank Center
• Create your own essay and visit Frank Center tutor

• Available in BizHub/library

Other Frank Center *writing tip sheets*
Assessment conflicts and technical problems

The window to complete the assessment is from October 5-October 12, 2020. If for some reason you will be unable to do so, contact Kevin Den Adel (Kevin-denadel@uiowa.edu) and Carl Follmer (carl-follmer@uiowa.edu) to discuss your particular situation.

If you experience technical or internet connectivity problems as you are completing or submitting your assessment, contact Carl Follmer via email (carl-follmer@uiowa.edu) or phone (319-335-0913) as soon as possible.
Special testing conditions

Students registered with Student Disability Services may arrange for their required test modification

Requests and the Student Academic Accommodation Request form should be given to Carl Follmer (carl-follmer@uiowa.edu) as soon as possible
Contact information

kevin-denadel@uiowa.edu, 335-1412, W372 PBB
• student eligibility
• administration of the writing assessment

carl-follmer@uiowa.edu, 335-0913, C353 PBB
• requests for special testing arrangements,
• report a test date conflict
• questions about assessment scoring
What we’re looking for...

Thesis statement practice

Identify a specific, narrow topic

Present a clear and original opinion about that topic

Appear near the beginning of the paper, ideally at the end of the 1st paragraph

Offer some sort of “because” or explanatory element

• Ex: Winter is the worst season. (clear but not sufficiently narrow - needs explanation)

• Ex: Winter is the worst season because illness increases, the weather causes more car accidents, and people are less cheerful. (the writer could then spend 1 paragraph addressing each of these explanatory elements)
Making claims from a thesis

Claims = thesis for the paragraph
  • Necessary in all body paragraphs (not intro or conclusion)

Like a topic sentence, but with argumentation

Claims should add up to support thesis