Frequently Asked Questions About the Upper-Division Writing Directed Self Placement (UDW-DSP)

Question: What is the UDW-DSP?

Answer: The Upper-Division Writing Directed Self Placement (UDW-DSP) is an online exercise designed to help you place yourself in the upper-division writing course that is appropriate for you. The UDW-DSP is NOT a test. In the exercise, you will learn about the two upper-division writing courses available to you – 100A and 100W – and will answer questions to help you determine which course is right for you. The exercise only takes about 15 minutes and is not difficult, so no need to stress! More information can be found at https://www.sjsu.edu/wac/wst/

Question: Do I have to take the UDW-DSP?

Answer: Yes, all undergraduate students must complete the UDW-DSP. The UDW-DSP is a prerequisite for all 100W courses as well as all GE Area R/S/V courses. In other words, if you do not complete the UDW-DSP, then you will not be eligible to enroll in many upper-division courses. That said, there is no need to stress out about the UDW-DSP: it is not difficult and only takes about 15 minutes to complete. More information can be found at https://www.sjsu.edu/wac/wst/

Question: How do I take the UDW-DSP?

Answer: All the information about the online UDW-DSP, and the link to complete it, can be found at the UDW-DSP website. Once you complete the UDW-DSP, processing will take 1-2 business days, and then you will have fulfilled this prerequisite for upper division writing courses and will be done with it forever!

Question: I'm applying to transfer to SJSU; is the UDW-DSP an admissions requirement?

Answer: No, the UDW-DSP is not an admissions requirement – it is something you will complete after you have been admitted and have a student ID number. That said, there is no need to stress out about the UDW-DSP: it is not difficult and only takes about 15 minutes to complete. More information can be found at https://www.sjsu.edu/wac/wst/

Question: I don't remember if I completed the UDW-DSP or not. How can I check?

Answer: There is a section in your MyProgress report called "WID: Writing in the Disciplines Eligibility." If that section has a green dot, you have completed the UDW-DSP. If after checking MyProgress you still have questions, send an email to Sara Cook at Sara.Cook@sjsu.edu. You must include your student ID number.

Question: I've started the UDW-DSP, but I'm still not sure if I should choose 100A or 100W; can someone help me?

Answer: Yes! Please contact Sara Cook at Sara.Cook@sjsu.edu and she can help you make the best choice for you.

Question: I've started the UDW-DSP, but I'm not sure which 100W course I should select at the end because I'm not sure which 100W course I need for my major; how do I know which 100W course to select?

Answer: A good place to start is the SJSU catalog. Look up the catalog page for your major or the roadmap for your major. Either of these should tell you which 100W course is appropriate. If you can't find the information in the catalog, run your MyProgress, which should list the approved 100W courses for your major. If you still can't find the information, an academic advisor in your college or department can tell you which 100W course you need for your major.

That said, if you are under a time-crunch to complete the UDW-DSP because your enrollment date is here or almost here, then you may select a 100W course from the drop-down list (at the end of the exercise) that most closely relates to your major – the course that seems like the one you need. That way, you can complete the UDW-DSP and enroll in your courses for the next semester. If it turns out that you need a *different* 100W course than the one you selected in the exercise, that's OK. Your course selection in the UDW-DSP does not determine which 100W course you are eligible to enroll in. In other words, you are free to enroll in any 100W course you like, regardless of which course you selected in the UDW-DSP.

Question: I completed the UDW-DSP last year; do I have to do it again?

Answer: No, you only need to complete the UDW-DSP exercise one time. After that, this prerequisite for upper division writing will be fulfilled and you will be prevented from completing the UDW-DSP again (because you're done – yay!).

Question: Where is my UDW-DSP score/results?

Answer: The UDW-DSP is not a test and there is no score or result to receive. It is an exercise designed to help students *place themselves* in the appropriate writing course (100A or 100W). At the end of the UDW-DSP, you were asked to choose the writing course that you felt was right for you. That is the "result" and the course you enroll in.

Question: I don't have any research papers to upload in the UDW-DSP; what do I do?

Answer: The paper you upload in the UDW-DSP does not have to be a research paper in genre; it can be any paper you wrote at any college that simply *uses sources*. It can be from any course, on any subject. If you do not have a single paper that meets these criteria, you will need to write a short one to upload in the UDW-DSP.

Question: I've decided I want to take a different course than the one I selected at the end of the UDW-DSP; what do I do?

Answer: You are free to enroll in any 100W course you like, or 100A, regardless of which course you selected in the UDW-DSP. In other words, your course selection at the end of the UDW-DSP does not determine your enrollment eligibility.

Question: I'm trying to enroll in a 100W or a GE AREA R/S/V course and it says I haven't met the requisites for the course, but I already completed the UDW-DSP; what do I do?

Answer: Check your MyProgress to see if the WID: Writing in the Disciplines Eligibility section has a green dot. The WID: Writing in the Disciplines Eligibility section will have a red square next to prerequisites that you have not met. If you still have questions, contact Sara Cook at Sara.Cook@sjsu.edu (make sure to include your student ID #). Concurrently, contact an academic advisor in your department or college. Chances are, if you've completed the UDW-DSP and you are getting a requisite error message, then you have not met one (or more) of the **other** prerequisites for the course. An academic advisor can help you determine what prerequisite/s you are missing.