Power of Language Placement

All students must take a Power of Language course during their first year at the college to satisfy the requirements of the core curriculum. Placement in an English Power of Language class is based primarily on SAT verbal score. If SAT verbal score is unavailable, placement will be based on high school class rank (if available) and grades in high school English courses.

Power of Language placement is made in three levels:

Standard: Most entry-level students begin with college writing at the standard level. They are reasonably successful with written assignments, but they need instruction and practice in college-level academic writing to become proficient. These students typically have SAT-V scores between 500 and 680 and good grades in high school English courses. If placed here, students will take En 100, Writing and Language, a four-credit writing course focusing on academic writing. Successful completion of En 100 will fulfill the English Power of Language requirement. En 100 may be taken in either the fall or spring semester of the first year.

Intensive: Students placed at the intensive level will need to increase their fluency in academic writing in order to succeed in college-level writing courses. These students typically have SAT-V scores below 500 and/or grades of C or lower in high school English courses. If placed here, students will be required to enroll in a section of En 100 designated Writing and Language Intensive, requiring regular visits to the campus writing center. Successful completion of En 100 Intensive will fulfill the English Power of Language requirement. Students placed here must register for En 100 during the fall semester of their first year.

Advanced: Students placed at the advanced level are those who are very comfortable and fluent with language and writing. These students are typically in the top 10% of our entering class. If placed here, students may choose to take En 150 Advanced Writing and Language or Philosophy 110 Logic and Critical Thinking to fulfill the English Power of Language requirement. This requirement may be fulfilled in either the fall or spring semester of the first year.

Note: Students whose records do not provide adequate information to make a placement decision will be required to take a placement examination and will be notified prior to the Fall Orientation Program.

For further information, please contact Dr. Louis Martin, Director of First Year Writing, at 717-361-1236 or martinlf@etown.edu.