

Research Report

Sacramento City College

**Office of Planning, Research, and
Institutional Effectiveness (PRIE)**

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PREREQUISITE STUDY FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS IN 2009-2010 PROGRAM REVIEW: JOURNALISM

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2009-2010 COMMUNICATION SKILLS PREREQUISITES:

For the 2009-2010 SCC program review cycle, two academic programs—anthropology and journalism—include courses with communication prerequisites, which require the highest level of scrutiny in a prerequisite validation (see Buechner 2009 at <https://file.scc.losrios.edu/InsideSCC/PresidentsOffice/PRIE/PreReqValidPol.pdf> for a complete review of prerequisite validation policy¹).

¹ See also Chancellor's Office, California Community Colleges Student Services and Special Programs Division. (Fall 1997). *Prerequisites, Corequisites, Advisories, and Limitations on Enrollment* and ASCCC, Model The Model District Policy on Prerequisites, Corequisites, and Advisories on Recommended Preparation, Board of Governors, September 1993 and *Matriculation Evaluation: Phase III Local Research Options. Community College League of California, California Community Colleges, Southern California Community College Institutional Research Association, and NOR CAL Community College Research Group, June 1992. See also Assessment Validation Project Local Research Options, Feb 1991, Chancellor's Office and The Matriculation Local Research Options Committee*

Journalism Prerequisite Validations Spring 2010 (JOUR 403):

Only one journalism course has a “communication skills” prerequisite—Journalism-403, which requires completion of ENGWR 100 or equivalent. Students and faculty were surveyed in Spring 2010 as part of a prerequisite validation for Journalism-403.

Sections Surveyed

Course	Section number(s)	Surveys Completed (number)	
		Student	Faculty
JOUR 403	14033	12	1

Results Summary

The expected measures for prerequisite validation were met for JOUR 403 for questions indicating that the prerequisite is necessary, but not for the questions indicating that the prerequisite is sufficient. The department may wish to consider additional prerequisites, learning support practices or other changes as they deem appropriate.

	Student Responses			Faculty Responses		Outcomes
	Prepared: <i>Adequate or Over Prepared</i> (%)	Level of Work: <i>Just right or too easy</i> (%)	Prerequisite: <i>Necessary or important</i> (%)	Prerequisite Necessary: <i>Agree or Strongly Agree</i> (%)	Prepared Students (%)	Successful Students (%) ²
JOUR 403	91.7	100.0	83.3	100.0	60.0	52.6

Journalism-403: *College Magazine Production*

Prerequisite: ENGWR 100 (*College Writing*) with a grade of “C” or better; or placement through the assessment process.

Student surveys. One section of Journalism-403 was offered in Spring 2010, and 12 students completed student surveys. Most of the students indicated that they met the prerequisite for the course through the assessment process (58.3%). The remaining respondents met the prerequisite by taking the course at SCC or another institution. When asked to indicate their level of preparedness for the course, 91.7% of the students indicated that they were adequately or overly prepared and all of the students described the level of work in the class as “just right or too easy.” The majority of students (83.3%) described the skills learned in the prerequisite as necessary or important for success in JOUR-403.

Faculty survey. The faculty member indicated that the prerequisite was necessary for successful completion of Journalism-403. However, the instructor also indicated that only 60% of the students were adequately prepared for the course.

Summary. Regarding the importance of the prerequisite, both the results from the student and faculty surveys meet the criteria in the SCC guidelines. Clearly, the students and faculty agree that the prerequisite is an important component of success in JOUR-403. Subsequent analysis of final grades shows that 52.6% of students successfully completed the course, however because a substantial percentage of grades are “W,” further analysis of non-W grades show that 83.3% of the students completed the course successfully. Although it appears that the prerequisite is sufficient preparation for the majority of students who were retained in the course, caution must be used when generalizing to a broader student population because there are so few respondents. The department may want to collect more data before finalizing any communications skills prerequisite review.

² Calculated as A, B, C/CR, divided by A, B, C/CR, D, F/NC, W, I (then multiplied by 100).