

First-Year Writing FAQs for Advisors at SJSU

This handout is divided into the following sections:

A. STRETCH ENGLISH

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C. WHAT DO STUDENTS TAKE AFTER ENGLISH 1A OR STRETCH (ENGLISH 1AF/S)?

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FALL 2016 PATHWAYS TO COMPLETING AREA A2 @ SJSU

PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS WHO FAIL STRETCH

A. STRETCH ENGLISH

1. What is Stretch English?

Stretch English is a yearlong version of English 1A: it “stretches” English 1A over a full year (6 units). It is open to all entering freshmen and replaces the former options of LLD1 and LLD2 courses. All students are welcomed on admission into the First Year Writing program.

Stretch is designed for a multilingual student population and is grounded in the principles of universal design for instruction. It uses integrated reading and writing assignments to allow students to continue language development as they meet the college writing challenges that can stimulate their cognitive development.

2. How do students clear remediation in Stretch?

Midyear clearance: Students who are earning a B in course work and have earned a 2.5 or higher (out of 3) on the midyear portfolio can clear remediation in English after the first semester of Stretch English.

Note that students who clear midyear do not yet have credit for A2; they have simply cleared remediation in English. They still have to enroll in the spring (English 1AS) to earn A2 credit.

Spring clearance: UGRM students who have not cleared midyear can clear remediation by earning at least a D- in English 1AS.

3. Why do Stretch English students stay in the same cohort for the full year?

Stretch integrates the high impact practice of cohorting students for instruction in a highly collaborative learning community. This allows students to pursue a single line of inquiry supported and developed by a shared reading and writing syllabus. While instructors share a common set of writing assignments, each instructor’s section is governed by the individual instructor’s syllabus and specific assignments. Sections are not interchangeable.

4. How can I help students understand Stretch?

You can advise students that their commitment to Stretch English is a yearlong commitment. Their spring schedule will need to accommodate the fall section time and day.

5. What if students do not pass Stretch English?

Students must receive at least a D- in English 1AS (spring) to pass Stretch English. Below are the pathways for students who do not pass either the first and/or the second semester of Stretch.

- a. Non-remedial students (non-UGRM) earn No Credit in first semester English 1AF: Take English 1A in spring.

- b. Remedial students (UGRM) earn No Credit in first semester English 1AF: Students have the opportunity to take a Community College class in the spring to clear remediation.
- c. Non-remedial students (non-UGRM) do not pass English 1AS: Students take English 1A for grade forgiveness in fall.
- d. Remedial students (UGRM) do not pass English 1AS: Clear remediation at a Community College in summer.

See the chart at the end of this document for this information.

B. DIRECTED SELF PLACEMENT

1. What is Directed Self Placement (DSP)?

Directed Self Placement is a set of exercises that allow students to choose from the variety of courses SJSU's First Year Writing Program offers: both entry-level college writing and their second course in college writing. We have courses that are tailored to serve a variety of student needs and programs of study, and to satisfy the various general education requirements. DSP exercises are designed to get students information—and in the case of the entry-level decision—hands-on experience that they need as they choose their fall writing course.

The Canvas DSP course is a pre-requisite for English 1A and English 1AF (the first semester of the yearlong Stretch course). Students who have not completed DSP will not be allowed to sign up for English 1A or 1AF at orientation. They will be asked to complete DSP before enrolling in their writing course.

2. Who must do DSP? What incoming frosh are not required to do the DSP?

All First Time Freshmen complete a DSP exercise. Only those who are choosing between English 1A and Stretch (English 1AF and 1AS) do the DSP modules in Canvas (5 modules). The Canvas DSP for Choosing English 1A or Stretch English is a pre-requisite for enrolling in English 1A or English 1AF. Students with a DSP hold on their CMS file will not be able to enroll in one of these courses.

Table 1. The Four DSP Cohorts

DSP Cohorts by Enrollment Category	Who belongs and how	Decision to be made
A2 Satisfied	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP score of 3, 4, and 5* in Lit and Composition CLEP score of 50 in Composition IBE score of 4 to 7 in English HL Language and/or Lit exams Transferring English 1A with a C- or higher from a community college. 	A3 or C2 required? English 2 required?
A2 Ready (non-UGRM English)	EPT score of 147 or higher; Non-resident of CA and International who have not yet taken EPT.	English 1A or Stretch
Early Start (UGRM English)	EPT score of 146 or below	English 1A or Stretch
Conditionally Ready	See chart on EPT/ELM page: http://testing.sjsu.edu/eptelm/eptelmexempt/	English 1A or Stretch

**Why are students with AP scores of 4 and 5 included?* Students who earn a 4 or 5 on the AP exam in Literature and Composition earn credit for English 1B in GE Area C2. They do not earn credit for GE Area A3. If their major requires A3, they will need to take an A3 course, but not English 2. They need to enroll in a Critical Thinking and Writing course in another department.

3. Does everyone complete the same DSP?

Not all students take the same DSP. Some students enter SJSU having already satisfied English 1A. As a result, there are two different DSP exercises:

A. Canvas course for choosing English 1A or Stretch English: This course made up of 5 modules that help each student choose the best entry-level option for his or her development as a reader and writer: English 1A or Stretch English. Assignments invite students to experience and reflect on what college writing is and what it demands; reflection surveys prompt students to gauge their own readiness for this transition to college writing. This experience and reflection leads to their choice: English 1A, or English 1AF and 1AS?

B. Website exercise for What to Take After English 1A: The video and decision chart on this website helps students to decide what to take once they have satisfied English 1A.

Table 2. The Two Directed Self Placements

THE TWO DSPs	Who does this DSP?	Where do they do it?	What do they need to do?	What do they need to show at Orientation?	Is this a pre-requisite in People Soft?
DSP 1: Understanding What to Take after English 1A	A2 Satisfied*	FYW website	Watch video, use decision chart	Bring decision chart (on phone, photocopy)	No
DSP 2: Choosing One of Two Versions of English 1A	A2 Ready	Canvas	Complete 5 modules	Grade report and final paragraph	Yes <i>Students will not be allowed to enroll in English 1A or Stretch English for fall unless they have completed their DSP requirement.</i>
	Early Start	SJSU Early Start English course	Complete 5 modules	Grade report and final paragraph	
	Conditionally Ready	Met: Canvas Not Met: Early Start	Complete 5 modules	Grade report and final paragraph	

4. How are students assigned a DSP exercise?

People Soft service indicators are used to establish the DSP student groups, for messaging that directs them to the appropriate DSP course and vehicle.

5. What happens if a student intending to enroll in an A2 course does not complete DSP by Orientation?

All students intending to enroll in an A2 course have been directed to complete the Canvas DSP before their Orientation appointment. Some students likely will not comply. The Canvas course is open through Orientation for students who have not done the DSP.

Students who have not satisfied their DSP pre-requisite before their orientation session will leave Orientation with a directive to complete DSP by August 10 so that they can enroll in a course during the first week of classes. Students will also be told that classes may not be available at that point, and they may need to defer their English 1A enrollment until spring.

6. Do Honors students do the Canvas DSP?

Yes. Honors students need to follow the DSP protocol for the DSP cohort into which they fall (see Table 1).

7. How does DSP relate to students' "remedial" (UGRM) tag in PeopleSoft?

The remedial tag (UGRM) is generated by the students' English Placement Test (EPT) score. All students with the tag must do Early Start, which is where these students complete the DSP.

8. How does DSP relate to other tests, like the EAP, CLEP, AP, IBE, etc?

Such scores define for us a student's enrollment status in the initial DSP screening of students. We use them to define the four DSP cohorts outlined above, and to direct them to the appropriate DSP experience. EAP, CLEP, and IBE scores, like AP scores determine which GE requirements students need to complete. Students whose IBE or AP scores have already earned them A2 credit, for instance, don't do the Canvas DSP for choosing a version of English 1A. They are directed to do the website DSP called What to Take After English 1A.

C. WHAT DO STUDENTS TAKE AFTER ENGLISH 1A OR STRETCH?

Some students are required to take English 1B, but most take an Area A3 (Critical Thinking and Writing) course. Students who take Humanities Honors or American Studies 1A/1B do not need to take these courses.

Critical thinking courses should help students learn to recognize, analyze, evaluate, and produce reasoning.	
COMM 041	Critical Decision Making
COMM 045	Media and Culture
ENGL 002	Critical Thinking and Writing
ENGL 007	Critical Thinking
HIST 050	Historical Process: Understanding Historical Reasoning
HUM 001A-1B ^	World Cultures & Societies- Honors
HUM 002A-2B ^	Modern World Cultures - Honors
LING 021	Language & Thinking
LING 024	Language Variation in Space, Time, & Culture
PHIL 057	Logic & Critical Reasoning
POLS 020	Controversial Legal Issues

1. Some students are exempt from Area A3.

To help students understand which class to take, see the decision chart:

http://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/after_engl_1a/What%20to%20take%20after%20Engl%201A.pdf

2. Who is required to take English 1B?

http://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/after_engl_1a/What%20to%20take%20after%20Engl%201A.pdf

3. Who cannot take English 1B?

Students who have earned credit by examination for English 1B, or who have taken English 1B at a junior college, cannot take English 2 to satisfy their GE Area A3 requirement. They must choose a Critical Thinking and Writing course in another department. Note that there is no credit by examination for English 2, but some students may have earned credit for English 1B by scoring high enough on the AP, IBE, or CLEP exams in composition. See: <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/cbe.html>

D. FIRST-YEAR WRITING PROGRAM RESOURCES

- **Where can students find information about the GE writing requirements for a degree at SJSU?**

<http://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/>

- **Where can students find information about Directed Self Placement?**

http://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/directed_self_placement/index.html

This website includes a video about the Canvas DSP modules that help students choose their entry-level writing course: English 1A or Stretch English (English 1AF and 1AS).

The decision chart on this page directs all students to the Directed Self Placement exercise appropriate to their enrollment status.

- **Where can students find information about what to take after English 1A?**

http://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/after_engl_1a/index.html

This website is the DSP exercise for students choosing a second lower-division GE writing course.

E. BACKGROUND ON WRITING PROGRAM CHANGES @ SJSU

1. Why are we transitioning to DSP?

First Year Writing now offers a variety of courses to meet different student needs and programs of study. (For more information see our website: www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/). In the face of this variety, Directed Self Placement helps each student find the course that serves his or her individual and programmatic needs.

2. Why do non-remedial (UGRM) students have to do the Canvas DSP?

Test scores alone don't tell us if a student will fare better in a one-semester English 1A or a two-semester English 1A. All students entering first year writing are making a transition from high school to college writing instruction.

3. What exactly is the Directed Self Placement?

The DSP is a guided reflection on college readiness for each student. Students read a series of short essays and write reflective pieces, then are asked to answer questions about their experience reading and writing. The end result is a portfolio that is then made available to their First Year Writing instructors.

4. Can I take the DSP to learn more about it?

Yes, please contact Professor Cindy Baer to be added to the Canvas course.