

Requirements for Academic Skill Development Courses: Oral Communication Courses (C)

OBJECTIVES FOR ORAL COMMUNICATION (“C”) COURSES

Any course at W&J is eligible to be designated as a C course if, in addition to its other goals, it also includes practice and instruction in oral communications skills. These skills may be presentational or dialogic, or both.

In a presentation it is primarily the obligation of one speaker to create or develop meaning in a situation. In dialogic situations individuals alternate in the roles of speaker and audience, with the goal being a collaborative construction of meaning. For the purposes of this curriculum, a graded dialogue has the student in a central role in the dialogue—examples include a formal debate, an oral exam, an interview-based project, or leading a class discussion.

I. Students in C courses will be able deliver a presentation and/or facilitate a dialogue with the following features:

- Purpose: A specific statement or objective.
- Structure which supports purpose.
- An intentional design (e.g. chronological, spatial, topical, problem-solution, cause-effect, coherent plot), with a clear beginning, middle, and end. In the case of dialogue, balanced participation among dialogue partners and explicit indications about whether the interaction is accomplishing the purpose.
- Content which supports purpose: Language, evidence/detail, and reasoning adapted to audience, with clear citation of sources (when applicable).
- Delivery, appropriate to speaker abilities, which supports purpose: Vocal, gestural, postural, spatial, and visual.

II. C courses devote at least the equivalent of one class period to instruction in oral communication.

III. C courses must include at least two major oral communication assignments. A presentation should be at least five minutes in length. A dialogue assignment should be at least 10 minutes in length.

IV. C courses require that part of the student’s final grade be based on the communication assignments.