

Communication Standards Student Survey

The McCormick School is trying to determine what writing standards McCormick faculty and students consider to be most important. Once we have that information, we will create a website to provide writing guidelines for engineering students in all majors. Please help us in this effort by taking a few minutes of your time to fill out the short survey. The information you provide here is completely confidential: nobody except the researchers will have access to your responses. We will report the findings anonymously: without any identification of the participants. Thank you.

Directions: Please read the items carefully and indicate your responses as appropriate: by circling one of the indicators (1 to 5), checking the boxes, or filling in the blanks.

Department : _____

1. My **major** has commonly shared standards for “good writing.”

1 2 3 4 5
 strongly disagree strongly agree I don't know

2. Please indicate below which standards (writing ability) your **major** values. Put a check mark in one of the boxes next to each ability (i to viii) to show its level of importance for your major.

Ability faculty values	Unimportant	Fairly important	Very important
i- write grammatically correct sentences	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii- write sentences that are spelled and punctuated correctly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii-write sentences that are clear and direct	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv- organize a document effectively	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v- write clear explanations of technical subjects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
vi- provide evidence or reasoning to support an argument	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
vii- summarize information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
viii- write complete and accurate bibliographic information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. In the spaces below, please list the names and numbers of the courses you typically take (have taken or currently enrolled) in your **major**, and indicate whether the courses require writing or not:

Course Number (e.g. BME 301)	Course Name (e.g. Tissue Engineering)	Course requires writing
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. For the courses you listed in item 3 that **require writing**, indicate below what types of writing exercises your instructor(s) assign you to complete. Please fill in the blanks writing the course name(s) or number(s):

Writing Exercise	Courses in which the exercise is assigned
Abstract	_____
Literature review	_____
Proposal	_____
Short report	_____
Case study evaluation	_____
Lab report	_____
Writing for electronic media (slide presentation, Power Point, etc.)	_____
Figures, tables, charts	_____
Other :	_____

5. Your instructors may expect different levels of writing proficiency in formal and informal writing. In the following matrix please indicate how your instructor(s) **consider** the writing skills in relation to these two types of writing: an exam with short answers (informal) and a report (formal). Circle the appropriate number for each of these skills your instructors may expect you to perform, using 1 to mean “not at all important” and 5 to mean “extremely important.”

Skill	Assignment (Type)									
	Exam Question (Informal)					Reports (Formal)				
write grammatically correct sentences	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
write sentences that are spelled and punctuated correctly	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
write sentences that are clear and direct	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
organize a document effectively	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
write clear explanations of technical subjects	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
provide evidence or reasoning to support an argument	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
summarize information	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
write complete and accurate bibliographic information	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

6. Please rate the extent to which your professors include the following writing skills **in grading**. Circle 1 to mean “not at all” and “5” to mean “a great deal.”

Skill	Assignment (Type)									
	Exam Question (Informal)					Reports (Formal)				
write grammatically correct sentences	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
write sentences that are spelled and punctuated correctly	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
write sentences that are clear and direct	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
organize a document effectively	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
write clear explanations of technical subjects	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
provide evidence or reasoning to support an argument	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
summarize information	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
write complete and accurate bibliographic information	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

7. Do your instructor(s) distribute guidelines or advice about writing? ___Yes ___No

If your response is yes, please describe below these guidelines/advice, indicating the course(s) in which they are provided.