

## **Assigning a Mid-Semester Conditional “U” in Writing**

In addition to assigning a “U” in writing at the end of the semester, you have the option of assigning a conditional “U” during the semester if you feel that weak writing skills will impede the success of one or more of your students. You might assign a mid-semester “U” if students need to improve in one or more major areas of writing, such as writing with sources or developing sentence-level writing skills. If you plan to assign a mid-semester “U,” please follow this procedure:

- 1.** Discuss the mid-semester “U” with the students you plan to refer to the Writing Center:

**A.** Inform students that they have submitted unsatisfactory work and will receive a “U” at the end of the semester—and may not get the “R” credit in a writing-intensive course—unless they improve their writing in one or more revisions or additional writing assignments. While the conditional “U” does not appear on the students’ transcripts, the “U” allows the professor to identify specific writing goals and outcomes for students so they can develop the skills they need to succeed in this and other courses.

Please emphasize that even if students fulfill the mid-semester “U” obligations identified in the mid-semester “U” referral form—and even if their writing improves during the semester—an end-of-the semester “U” may still be warranted if students have not met the writing objectives of the course or demonstrated competency equivalent to their writing peers or appropriate to their class status.

**B.** Talk to students about course writing objectives and goals and outline the requirements (e.g., revision expectations and the number of Writing Center visits) they need to fulfill to complete their individualized tutoring programs. These requirements will vary from student to student, depending on the student’s skill level, the length of the paper(s), revision expectations, and possibly other criteria.

**C.** Explain the potential benefits of the mid-term “U” option, such as

- Receiving individualized one-on-one writing instruction
- Improving the quality of writing in subsequent course papers
- Improving writing skills so students are prepared to meet greater writing challenges
- Addressing writing obstacles now to prevent receiving a “U” at the end of the term
- Earning “R” credit for a writing-intensive course

**D.** Prepare students for their first Writing Center appointment. They should

- Call (740-368-3925) or stop by the Writing Center (Corns 316) to schedule an appointment
- Bring the following two items (and any other relevant materials) to the first appointment: The writing prompt and the graded or “marked” paper (s)
- Review the paper and generate a revision plan based on the instructor’s suggestions

- 2.** Ask students to return the completed form to the Academic Resource Center, Corns 316.
- 3.** Contact Jim Stull (3928) if you would like to share additional information about one of your students.