Frequently Asked Questions

What is the UDW-DSP (formerly the WST-DSP)?

The Upper-Division Writing Directed Self Placement (UDW-DSP) is an online exercise designed to help you place yourself in the upper-division writing course that is appropriate for you. The UDW-DSP is NOT a test. In the exercise, you will learn about the two upper-division writing courses available to you – 100A and 100W – and will answer questions to help you determine which course is right for you. The exercise only takes about 15 minutes and is not difficult, so no need to stress!

Do I have to take the UDW-DSP (formerly the WST-DSP)?

Yes, all students must complete the UDW-DSP. The UDW-DSP is the mechanism by which you fulfill their WST requirement, and the WST requirement is a prerequisite for all 100W courses as well as all R/S/V area courses. In other words, if you do not complete the UDW-DSP, then you will have not fulfilled your WST requirement and will not be eligible to enroll in many upper-division courses. That said, there is no need to stress out about the UDW-DSP: it is not difficult and only takes about 15 minutes to complete.

How do I take the UDW-DSP?

All the information about the online UDW-DSP, and the link to complete it, can be found here: https://www.sjsu.edu/wac/wst/index.php Once you complete the UDW-DSP, processing will take 1-2 business days, and then you will have fulfilled your WST requirement/prerequisite and will be done with it forever!

I’m applying to transfer to SJSU; is the UDW-DSP an admissions requirement?

No, the UDW-DSP is not an admissions requirement – it is something you will complete after you have been admitted and have a student ID number. That said, there is no need to stress out about the UDW-DSP: it is not difficult and only takes about 15 minutes to complete.

I don’t remember if I completed the UDW-DSP or not. How can I check?

Send an email to Sara Cook at Sara.Cook@sjsu.edu asking her if you have completed it or not. You must include your student ID number.
I’ve started the UDW-DSP, but I’m still not sure if I should choose 100A or 100W; can someone help me?

Yes! Please contact Sara Cook at Sara.Cook@sjsu.edu and she can help you make the best choice for you.

I’ve started the UDW-DSP, but I’m not sure which 100W course I should select at the end because I’m not sure which 100W course I need for my major; how do I know which 100W course to select?

An academic advisor in your college or department can tell you which 100W course you need for your major. That said, if you are under a time-crunch to complete the UDW-DSP because your enrollment date is here or almost here, then you may select a 100W course from the drop-down list (at the end of the exercise) that most closely relates to your major – the course that seems like the one you need. That way, you can complete the UDW-DSP and enroll in your courses for the next semester.

If it turns out that you need a different 100W course than the one you selected in the exercise, that’s OK. Your course selection in the UDW-DSP does not determine which 100W course you are eligible to enroll in. In other words, you are free to enroll in any 100W course you like, regardless of which course you selected in the UDW-DSP.

I completed the UDW-DSP last year; do I have to do it again?

No, you only need to complete the exercise one time. After that, your WST requirement will be fulfilled and you will be prevented from completing it again (because you’re done – yay!).

Where is my score/results?

The UDW-DSP is not a test and there is no score or result to receive. It is an exercise designed to help students place themselves in the appropriate writing course (100A or 100W). At the end of the UDW-DSP, you were asked to choose the writing course that you felt was right for you. That is the "result" and the course you enroll in.

I don’t have any research papers to upload in the UDW-DSP; what do I do?

The paper you upload in the UDW-DSP does not have to be a research paper in genre; it can be any paper you wrote at any college that simply uses sources. It can be from any course, on any subject. If you do not have a single paper that meets these criteria, you will need to write a short one to upload in the UDW-DSP.
I’ve decided I want to take a different course than the one I selected at the end of the UDW-DSP; what do I do?

You are free to enroll in any 100W course you like, or 100A, regardless of which course you selected in the UDW-DSP. In other words, your course selection at the end of the UDW-DSP does not determine your enrollment eligibility.

I’m trying to enroll in a 100W/upper-division course and it says I haven’t met the requisites for the course, but I already completed the UDW-DSP; what do I do?

Contact Sara Cook at Sara.Cook@sjsu.edu and ask her to confirm that you’ve completed the UDW-DSP (make sure to include your student ID #). Concurrently, contact an academic advisor in your department or college. Chances are, if you’ve completed the UDW-DSP then that means that you have not met one (or more) of the other prerequisites for the course. An academic advisor can help you determine what prerequisite/s you are missing.