

## **Proposed Disciplinary Communications for Community Studies**

### Educational objectives for Community Studies Disciplinary Writing requirement

Students learn to:

1. Recapitulate core arguments, debates, and ideas about their topical focus
2. Explore expository/analytic, descriptive, informal, and formal writing styles and know what is appropriate for different tasks/uses
3. Develop a field study prospectus that includes background, research questions, methods, etc.
4. Produce thick descriptions of field study observations.
5. Analyze the results of their field study and report their findings in a formal thesis style paper.

### How these are met in the curriculum

CMMU 100 A-Z. In these gateway courses, one of which is required for every CMMU student, students read core texts for that field and write at least three expository essays and/or research papers. Instructors provide detailed feedback on essays in time for students to improve for the next assignment. While it varies among instructors, every course requires at least 20 pages of writing.

CMMU 102. A required course of every major in which students develop a field study prospectus that frames their focus and reviews relevant literature. The assignment includes research questions and methods, as well as an annotated bibliography. TAs provide feedback to allow students to turn in a more polished proposal. At least 10 pages of writing.

CMMU 194. A required course in the major, in this course students learn to analyze their field notes, discern their findings, turn their findings into a thesis statement, and turn in a final polished essay or thesis proposal. Other writing assignments include thick descriptions. The writing in the course is cumulative, so that instructors provide feedback at several intervals to allow students to provide a more polished piece at the end. At least 40 pages of writing.