

Committee on Educational Policy
Policy on Disciplinary Communication (DC) Instructors

Under Senate Bylaw 13.17.5, the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) is empowered to condition approval of curricula on the “appropriateness of the assignment of” particular instructors to particular courses.

Senate faculty are best positioned to provide instruction in disciplinary communication. Accordingly, CEP expects that department assign ladder-rank faculty to teach the DC curriculum whenever feasible, and that faculty provide the instructions in and feedback on writing and other forms of communication. In some cases, this might not be possible, however, in many cases experienced, non-senate faculty will be an excellent alternative or Graduate Student Instructors; they must have demonstrated competence in communication in the discipline and (for graduate students) must be well-trained and supervised. If Graduate Student Teaching Assistants are providing some of the writing/communications instruction or feedback (e.g., in discussion sections), they must be well trained and closely mentored and supervised by the instructor of record. In no case will CEP approve an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (UTA) to provide writing/communications instruction or feedback. If UTA’s are teaching discussion sections or laboratories in courses that are part of the DC curriculum, they are limited to teaching and/or grading the non-DC aspects, the non-writing content of the course. In the UTA taught sections, the instructor of record must provide all the instruction in writing and other forms of communications, and must perform all of the evaluation and feedback on writing and other forms of communication.

Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy on June 13, 2012