

Writing Test

Masters Program Admissions Testing Procedures

Candidates applying to the Drake School of Education Graduate Programs must provide writing and critical thinking competencies through testing; specifically, the ability to write accurately, think critically, and communicate clearly at a level appropriate for entry to graduate study. This 90-minute writing test is designed to determine candidates' ability to make rhetorical choices about all elements of their writing in relation to the form, audience, and purpose for writing in a structured descriptive or persuasive essay. Please follow the procedures below:

1. **Scheduling the test: Make a testing appointment at least one week before the testing date.** Testing sessions are held during the month starting at 1:00 p.m. *or* 4:30 p.m. To make an appointment, contact Bridget Arrasmith and include a phone number and the name of the program you are applying to.

Bridget Arrasmith
bridget.arrasmith@drake.edu
1-800-44-DRAKE, ext. 2054
(515) 271-2054

2. **Test Procedures:** Candidates will be permitted to use a computer or to handwrite their responses. Please make the request at the time you schedule the test. You may bring a dictionary and/or thesaurus. Beginning August, 2017, please report to the Harmon Fine Arts Center, Room 335 (third floor).

Drake University, Harmon Fine Arts Center
1310 25th Street, Room 335 (third floor)
Des Moines, IA 50311

3. **Cost and Payment:** The cost for the examination is \$30. Candidates must bring a **check/money order** made out to Drake University. **WITHOUT EXCEPTION, PAYMENT IS REQUIRED AT THE TIME OF THE TEST.** Candidates may retake the writing assessment only once, if necessary, for an additional charge of \$30. A different prompt will be issued for the second examination.

Evaluation of the Exam: Candidates must score at 4 on all criteria with a score of 22 or higher to be eligible for admission to a program. Your writing sample will be sent to an external assessor who will evaluate it using the rubric reprinted below. Within three weeks, you will receive notification telling you whether your sample met the criteria. Please do not telephone for your results unless you do not receive notification within three weeks of completing the writing sample.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ASSESSMENT FOR DRAKE WRITING TEST

	6	5	4	3	2	1
Position	Presents an insightful position on the question	Presents a well-considered position on the question	Presents a clear position on the question	Is vague or limited in presenting or developing a position on the question	Is unclear or seriously limited in presenting or developing a position on the question	Provides little or no evidence of the ability to understand and analyze the question
Development	Develops the position with compelling reasons and/or persuasive examples	Develops the position with logically sound reasons and/or well chosen examples	Develops the position on the issue with relevant reasons and/or examples	Is weak in the use of relevant reasons or examples	Provides few, if any, relevant reasons or examples	Provides little or no evidence of the ability to develop an organized response
Organization	Sustains a well-focused, well-organized analysis, connecting ideas logically	Maintains focus and is generally well organized, connecting ideas appropriately	Is adequately focused and organized	Is poorly focused and/or poorly organized	Is unfocused and/or disorganized	Provides little or no evidence of the ability to develop an organized response
Fluency	Expresses ideas fluently and precisely, using effective vocabulary and sentence variety	Expresses ideas clearly and well, using appropriate vocabulary and sentence variety	Express ideas with reasonable clarity	Presents problems in language and sentence structure that result in a lack of clarity	Presents serious problems in the use of language and sentence structure that frequently interfere with meaning	Presents severe problems in language and sentence structure that persistently interfere with meaning
Stylistics	Demonstrates facility with the conventions (i.e., grammar, usage and mechanics) of standard written English, but may have minor errors	Demonstrates facility with the conventions of standard written English, but may have minor errors	Generally demonstrates control of the conventions of standard written English, but may have some errors	Contains occasional major errors or frequent minor errors in grammar, usage or mechanics that can interfere with meaning	Contains serious errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that frequently obscure meaning	Contains pervasive errors in grammar, usage or mechanics that result in incoherence

2017 DRAKE WRITING COMPETENCY TEST SCHEDULE

Month, 2017	1:00 p.m. Testing	4:30 p.m. Testing
January	January 20 th / 1:00 p.m.	January 11 th / 4:30 p.m., January 26 th / 4:30 p.m.
February	February 17 th / 1:00 p.m.	February 1 st / 4:30 p.m., February 23 rd / 4:30 p.m.
March	March 17 ^h / 1:00 p.m.	March 8 th / 4:30 p.m., March 23 rd / 4:30 p.m.
April	April 14 th / 1:00 p.m.	April 5 th / 4:30 p.m., April 20 th / 4:30 p.m.
May	May 12 th / 1:00 p.m.	May 3 rd / 4:30 p.m.
June	June 16/ 1:00 p.m.	June 6 th / 4:30 p.m., June 20 th / 4:30 p.m.
July	July 21 st / 1:00 p.m.	July 11 th / 4:30 p.m., July 25 th / 4:30 p.m.
August	August 25 / 1:00 p.m.	August 15 / 4:30 p.m., August 29 / 4:30 p.m.
September	September 15 / 1:00 p.m.	September 5/ 4:30 p.m., September 19 / 4:30 p.m.
October	October 20 / 1:00 p.m.	October 10 / 4:30 p.m., October 24 / 4:30 p.m.
November	November 17 / 1:00 p.m.	November 7 / 4:30 p.m., November 21 / 4:30 p.m.
December	December 15 / 1:00 p.m.	December 5 / 4:30 p.m., December 19 / 4:30 p.m.