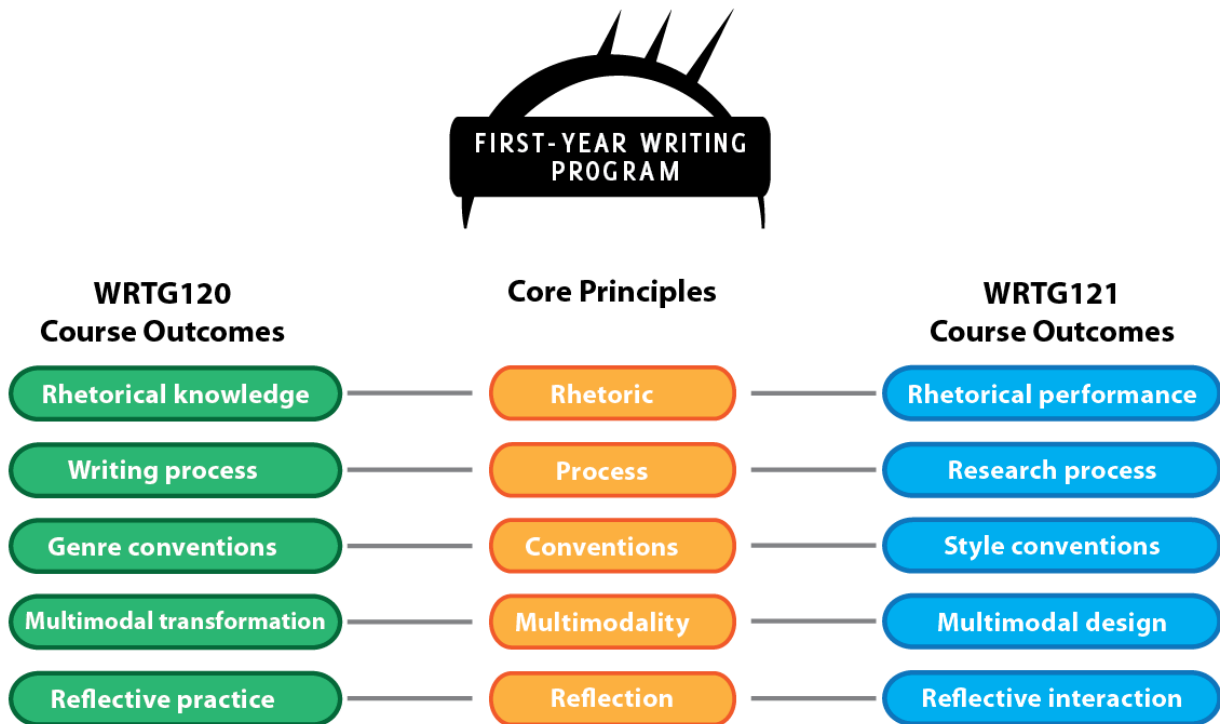


## First-Year Writing Program Principles and Outcomes



The First-year Writing Program most recently updated its program principles and course outcomes<sup>1</sup> in the summer of 2014. Based on input from a survey of instructional staff and based on a study that assessed a random sample of portfolios in relation to previous and new course outcomes, the program adopted the principles and course outcomes shown below. Five core principles are based on contemporary research on *threshold concepts* for rhetoric and composition/writing studies. Threshold concepts name key ideas that pinpoint the habits and practices effective writers enact across diverse composing situations. Course outcomes for *ENGL/WRTG120: Composition I: Writing the College Experience* and *ENGL/WRTG121: Composition II: Researching the Public Experience* operate *interdependently* with the five core principles and yet are distinct for the two courses in the sequence. Instructional staff use the core principles and the course outcomes to design lessons, to plan and focus projects, and to assess student projects and portfolios. Students may use the principles and outcomes to gain a sense of what to expect in first-year writing classes at EMU, to reflect upon their writing in the program, and to guide their writing in other classes at EMU.

### ENGL/WRTG120 Outcomes and Key Concepts

Principles + 120 Outcomes	Description
Rhetorical knowledge	You will have <b>practiced</b> using language consciously and identifying rhetorical qualities in composing situations.
Writing process	You will have <b>engaged</b> in invention, drafting, and rewriting, providing explicit evidence of a writing process.
Genre conventions	You will have <b>demonstrated</b> awareness of academic writing genre conventions, including mechanics and syntax.
Multimodal transformation	You will have <b>adapted</b> your writing to distinct rhetorical contexts, drawing attention to the way composition transforms across contexts and forms.
Reflective practice	You will have <b>applied</b> feedback from instructor, peers, and individual reflection to rethink, re-see, and ultimately revise your work.

### ENGL/WRTG121 Outcomes and Key Concepts

Principles + 121 Outcomes	Description
Rhetorical performance	You will have <b>enacted</b> rhetoric by consciously constructing persuasive texts.
Research process	You will have <b>practiced</b> different research methods, which includes analyzing and using sources and developing primary research.
Style conventions	You will have <b>developed</b> awareness of conventions of academic research processes, including documentation systems and their purposes.
Multimodal design	You will have <b>composed</b> using digital technologies, gaining awareness of the possibilities and constraints of electronic environments.
Reflective interaction	You will have <b>shared</b> your work with your instructor, peers, and/or the university community and accounted for the impact of such interaction on composition.