



DIMENSIONS OF CULTURE PROGRAM  
THURGOOD MARSHALL COLLEGE  
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## RE: The Dimensions of Culture Program

The University of California San Diego does not have an English Department or “Freshman Composition” courses per se. Instead, each of our six undergraduate colleges houses its own writing program as part of its general education requirements. The Dimensions of Culture Program (DOC) is the core curriculum and writing program at UCSD’s Thurgood Marshall College.

Admissions officers reviewing applicants’ UCSD transcripts should understand that successful completion of the lower-division **DOC sequence satisfies the University of California Writing Requirement**. Students must have satisfied the University’s Entry Level Writing Requirement – formerly “Subject A” – before enrolling in DOC 2 or DOC 3.

Students enrolled in DOC attend three lectures per week taught by faculty with rigorous interdisciplinary training that qualifies them to teach critical reading, writing, and thinking through an exploration of questions of diversity, justice, and imagination in American society. Teaching Assistants who are graduate students in a range of departments lead discussion sections. These Teaching Assistants are trained extensively by the program Director and Assistant Director in best practices for the instruction of writing. DOC 1 requires one hour of discussion section per week, and is worth four quarter units. DOC 2 and DOC 3 require two hours of section per week in addition to lectures, and these two courses are each taken for six quarter units. Two 5-6 page papers are assigned in each of the six-unit courses. There is a robust drafting and revision process for each assignment which includes shorter scaffolded assignments. DOC composition instruction emphasizes training the students in a sustained writing process.

DOC curriculum is grounded in content-driven writing instruction. By the end of the sequence, DOC students are expected to: 1) develop and refine critical thinking skills; 2) develop an ability to read, understand, and critique texts in diverse genres; 3) revise written work on a rhetorical level (in respect to thesis or claim, argument, evidence, and analysis) and on a sentence level (in respect to grammar, tone, syntax, style); 4) develop arguments in a logical and effective way, and 5) learn and follow a proper citation format.

For more information about the Dimensions of Culture Program courses, please see:  
<http://marshall.ucsd.edu/doc>.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Solomon Amorao".

Amanda Solomon Amorao, PhD  
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Assistant Teaching Professor