



# WESTMONT

## Faculty Position Request Form

(Used for requesting a new faculty position or filling a vacant position)

Department: English

Submitted by: Sarah Skripsky

Date: 13 Oct. 2020

Nature of request:

This is a request for a new faculty position (addition) in the department.

This is a request to fill a vacancy.

Who is the faculty member leaving or retiring? Randy VanderMey (with a flexible retirement date of 2021-2023: committed to waiting for the right hire)

**Rationale:** Please briefly describe the curricular need for this faculty position, including benefit to the department if the position is filled and the negative impact if it is not.

- Per the attached job ad that the English department has crafted with the Provost's input, Westmont would benefit from another Composition/Rhetoric specialist. Ideally, that person would be not only an **excellent teacher of writing** but also a **liberal-arts, interdisciplinary thinker, capable of leading institution-wide program review as well as faculty development efforts in relation to our GE writing-intensive courses**. The ideal hire would be capable of faculty development in relation to Writing Across the Curriculum (teaching generalizable virtues of "good writing" across departments) as well as Writing in the Disciplines (contributing to discipline-specific writing instruction). This hire could play a key role in crafting strategies to

benefit the rhetorical development of GE students from all departments (i.e., **helping us “close the loop” on an identified weakness in the rhetorical abilities of our seniors**, a weakness identified in our last two Written Comm. ILO assessments). Another desirable trait in a new hire would be someone well versed in **digital writing tools and/or digital pedagogies**; such a colleague would mentor students as multimedia writers and mentor faculty in emerging teaching tools and methods.

- In addition to the institution-level benefits noted above, the desired hire would consistently teach **introductory composition courses** (ENG 002, certainly, and likely ENG 087) as well as **advanced composition courses** (ENG 104, 143, etc.): see more details on attached table of courses with enrollment information from the past 3 years. Having another Composition/Rhetoric specialist teaching our “bread and butter” composition courses would continue to support not only English majors and English/Writing minors but also the rhetorical development of GE students from all departments, as noted above. Depending on the new hire’s subspecialties, this colleague would teach **creative writing and/or journalism as well as topical courses in professional writing, spiritual writing, and more**. Again, such courses are valuable not only to English majors and English/Writing minors but contribute to our GE writing-intensive education of all majors (in support of our Written Communication ILO).
- It’s worth mentioning that **prospective students often show interest in “creative writing” (broadly defined) and that having appealing Writing courses and faculty helps us recruit students to the college**, not only to the English department. The new Writing Minor has offered a **creative “home” for writing enthusiasts from a range of majors**, and this hire would play a central role in supporting these students and developing Writing Minor courses that can continue to attract students. (For example, one gap in our current Writing Minor offerings is a **Professional/Business Writing course**; having a new colleague develop that course could attract more Writing Minors from among our large population of Economics and Business majors, and perhaps also Engineering, etc. Another desirable new course would be **Spiritual Writing**, which would contribute to our Christian mission and support our CUPA ILOs.)

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### **Faculty Position Supporting Documentation**

Additional documents needed [**attached**]:

- (a) Please complete a table listing courses the person will teach and the enrollment in these courses for the past 3 years. Also, identify any new courses the department hopes to offer if this position is filled.
- (b) Position job description

Please submit materials to the Provost’s Office.