



UConn Writing Center

{ [WritingCenter.uconn.edu](http://WritingCenter.uconn.edu) }

**Writing @ UConn**  
an  
**Invitation**

The University Writing Center was founded to support writing as one of the key skills valued at the University of Connecticut. Writing is our shared intellectual language – the common practice of students and faculty, of learning and teaching, of theory and application. We invite you to visit us this year, to make use of our resources, and to become part of an increasingly energetic community of teachers and writers.

For faculty we have a program of practical workshops and engaging events about teaching writing. We also have new programs to provide direct and discipline-specific support for you in the classroom.

For student writers we offer fresh resources across a range of fields and individualized tutorial sessions designed to help you at every stage of the writing process.

The Writing Center also engages in community partnerships and sponsors research on academic writing.

We invite you to visit us...writers.

All UConn students take at least two writing-intensive (W) courses, including one advanced W class in the major. Courses with this designation, which are integral to the University's General Education program, give students the opportunity to focus on writing in a chosen field.

Because they are capped at 19 students, W courses encourage faculty-student interaction, open space to use writing as a mode of learning, and allow writers to concentrate on composing, revising, and editing.

The University Writing Center supports both faculty and students in W courses, as well as in other courses that feature writing.

Our undergraduate staff is made up of 20 students selected from the top ranks of over 15 different majors across UConn. In their first year as Writing Associates, these students complete a year-long tutoring practicum which addresses the finer points of tutoring and the emerging field of research concerning university-level writing and teaching. Many of our tutors have developed independent research projects and presented at regional and national conferences. The application process is highly competitive, and begins in late February. Please contact Kathleen Tonry to nominate a student, or for more information.

Our graduate staff is made up of 15 students from 10 different departments. The Writing Center awards Graduate Writing Associates a year's full or half-time financial support in the form of Graduate Assistantships. Graduate students serve both as tutors and as liaisons between the Writing Center and their home departments. In the past, these competitive assistantships have been excellent training for future faculty. The application process starts at the end of February. Please contact Tom Deans for more information or with nominations.

For staff bios, see our website: [writingcenter.uconn.edu](http://writingcenter.uconn.edu)

## Workshops

Every fall and spring we offer a series of workshops designed to help faculty incorporate writing instruction into their courses in ways that are engaging and rewarding. Regular topics include “Designing Effective Writing Assignments,” “Responding to (and Grading) Student Writing,” “Teaching Style and Editing,” “Practical Options for Informal, Write-to-Learn Assignments,” and “Designing Your Next W Course.”

Materials from some past workshops are archived on our website, where this year’s schedule is also posted.

## Individual consultations

The Director, Tom Deans, and Associate Director, Kathleen Tonry, are available for individual consultations with faculty and graduate student instructors on any aspect of teaching writing or course design. We have also collaborated with whole departments on sponsoring workshops or creating resources to meet their discipline-specific writing goals.

## Tutor Talks

When one of our undergraduate or graduate Writing Associates visits a class to give a 5-minute presentation describing what we do, this puts a human face on the Writing Center and encourages students bring in their drafts. We invite you to request Tutor Talks for W or non-W courses. Instructors can arrange a Tutor Talk either through our website, or by contacting Margie Ouimette at 486-4387.

## Writing Fellows program

This program draws on a core set of experienced undergraduate tutors who are prepared to work closely with faculty on writing in a specific course. The nature of this course-aligned work varies, but in the past Writing Fellows have consulted with students on early drafts, held course-specific tutoring hours, and facilitated workshops on aspects of writing relevant to particular assignments.

Please contact Tom Deans if you are interested in working with a Writing Fellow.

# Working with Students: Tutorials



Are you a “B+” writer looking to move your work to an “A” level? A senior who wants to think out loud about the different stages of a thesis project? Struggling with written assignments or unfamiliar paper expectations? Eager to make your prose more clear and fluid? Come in and see how our individualized sessions can help!

## What we can do

Our 45-minute sessions create a learning environment that offers one-on-one attention, a good conversation around your writing, and thoughtful answers to your questions.

Writers are invited to bring in any writing project, at any stage. Your course papers, lab reports, graduate applications, and cover letters are all welcome, from budding idea to final draft.

We welcome writers who are working with English as a second language (ESL). Several of our tutors have experience with ESL-specific issues, and we can also help writers avail themselves of different online and written resources. Our goal in working

with ESL writers remains the same as our goal for native speakers of English - that is, to support and guide an ongoing learning process.

Our Writing Associates are happy to work on very specific issues such as punctuation or sentence structure; they will also be able to direct you to some of the online resources and exercises collected on our website.



## What we can't do

We are not an editing or proofreading service – our goal is to offer guidance as you learn to become a better writer and editor. Toward that end we can help you identify weak areas and guide you in working on both broad and specific elements of effective writing.

We don't generate ideas or thesis statements for you, nor can we stand in for classroom instruction or faculty office hours. We are eager to work *with* you to explore ideas, test arguments, and refine your prose, but your writing always remains your responsibility.

# Working with Students: Tutorials

## How to schedule a session

You are welcome to drop in during any of our open hours. To make sure an appointment is available, you can use our online scheduler at [www.writingcenter.uconn.edu](http://www.writingcenter.uconn.edu). The online scheduler will allow you to choose the most convenient appointment and location, as well as decide whether to consult with a Writing Associate who has particular expertise in your field.

All sessions are 45 minutes. Writers can schedule one appointment a day, and up to 3 appointments within any 7-day period.

You may cancel an appointment through the online scheduler.

## What to expect when you arrive

Each of our three locations is a little different, although our Writing Associates are all familiar with each space. The library is our afternoon and late-night spot, and tends to have more drop-in traffic. CLAS 159 is open all day and has some lounge furniture; the space also serves as a connecting point between the Writing Center and the Creative Writing Program. CUE 124 is close to the Student Union and the central campus and features morning hours; this location is also our office headquarters.

When you arrive you'll be asked to sign in. If you haven't made an advance appointment, you'll be asked to complete a brief form that lets us

keep track of the different majors and writing assignments we see.

Your tutor will begin by asking you to talk a little about what you would like to address in your writing. After identifying specific areas, you might be asked to read aloud from your paper while your tutor follows. This allows your tutor to understand what your paper is about, and gives you a chance to raise further questions.

Your session will largely be shaped by your own questions and interests, so come prepared to be an active participant!

At the end of your 45 minutes your tutor will ask if you would like a description of the session sent to

your instructor. This is optional, and you will receive a copy as well. These brief descriptions don't evaluate you or your writing in any way; many faculty find these notes a good indicator of the extra work you're putting into your writing, and many writers find them helpful reminders of the session.



Drop in, or make tutoring appointments at  
**writingcenter.uconn.edu**

Tutorial sessions available for student writers  
at 3 locations, 6 days a week.

### **Library Level 1**

Mon-Wed 1 pm–4 pm & 7 pm–10 pm

Thu 1 pm–4 pm

Sun 2 pm–10 pm

### **CLAS 159**

Mon-Thu 9 am–4 pm

Fri 10 am–2 pm

### **CUE 124**

Mon-Thu 9 am–1 pm

### **University Writing Center**

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The University Writing Center is  
part of the Institute for Teaching &  
Learning.

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