

GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

Due to Problems in Graduate-Level Writing . . .



In a recent article from the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (June 14, 2000) about educational preparation, American workers reported that the abilities to communicate and to think critically were more valuable than job-specific skills. The UAB Graduate School addresses this need by offering courses in communication. To see whether you might benefit from Writing Up Research (GRD 712, Summer 2001), try to find the problem(s) in these sentences. If they look all right to you, you definitely need to read more closely!

“A convenience sample of 127 hospitalized medical patients older than 21 years of age from an urban medical center in the southeastern United States were studied.”

“The self-report questionnaires of the demographic data, the HCI, the PT and PSI were used in collecting data after subjects agreed to participate and informed consent was given.”

“Due to the mistakes that writers in graduate programs commonly make, the Graduate School is offering a professional writing course.”

Subject-verb agreement off: Sample *was*. Subject and verb too far apart: The convenience sample for the study consisted of 127 hospitalized patients older than 21 years of age and from an urban medical center in the southeastern United States.

Conditional phrase at end: After subjects agreed to participate and informed consent was obtained, data were collected through the self-report questionnaires of the demographic data, the HCI, the PT, and the PSI.

Misused “due to”: The Graduate School offers a professional writing course that is based on mistakes that are common among graduate students.



Graduate School, Hill University Center Suite 511
1400 University Blvd., Birmingham, AL 35294-1150
205-934-8227, 800-975-GRAD (4723)
<http://www.uab.edu/graduate>

Graduate School Calendar: June-Aug. 2001

JUNE

M	T	W	T	F
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

JULY

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

AUGUST

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6		8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
19 20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

MPH, MSPH, DRPH, and MSN students:
Check with your Graduate Program Directors for other deadlines, which differ from those of the Graduate School.

June 11: Deadline to change residency

June 12: Staying Afloat While Preparing a Thesis or Dissertation

June 22: Deadline for application for degree

July 13 and 27: Writing Fellowships

July 20: Last day for final (public) defense

July 30: Deadline for approval version of thesis to Graduate School

August 10: Final papers due for summer Plan II master's students

August 19: Diploma date

Summer Term

Professional Development Classes

Writing Up Research

(Thu. 6-9 p.m., GRD 702-04)

Style and Grammar for Writers

(Sat. 9 a.m.-noon, GRD 703-WN)

English as a Second Language

(Wed. 6-9 p.m., GRD 723-03)

Teaching at the College Level and Beyond

(Tue. 6-8 p.m., GRD 705-02)

Specialized Instruction

(individual meetings, GRD 704)

Writing Fellowship Applications

(July 13 and 27, 1-4 p.m., GRD 709-00)

For more details, see the UAB Class Schedule, visit the GRD web site (www.uab.edu/profdev), or contact Dr. Julia Austin at 205-975-6539 or jaustin@uab.edu.

Thesis and Dissertation News: On **June 12, 2001**, the Graduate School will hold a seminar to cover topics of interest to students who are preparing a thesis or dissertation. "Staying Afloat While Preparing a Thesis or Dissertation" will meet in Hill University Center Room 411, 4-6 p.m. The seminar is free, and registration is not required. Topics include forming and working with the Graduate Study Committee, selecting a style and format, and completing the processes in a timely manner.

Winners Announced



On April 27, 2001, the sponsors of Graduate Student Research Day recognized 23 winners from this year's competition. Congratulations!

Session 1—Social and Behavioral Science

1. **Whitney Boling** (Education)
2. **Troy Post, III** (Public Administration)
3. **Darlene Romania Wright** (Sociology)

Session 2—Mathematics and Computer Sciences

1. **Steve Donaldson** (Computer & Information Sciences)
2. **Daisy Wong** (Computer & Information Sciences)
3. **Yaohui Lu** (Computer & Information Sciences)

Session 3—Life Sciences

1. **Douglas Moellering** (Pathology)
2. **Alok Mulky** (Microbiology)
3. **Jeff Zwerner** (Biochemistry)

Session 4—Life Sciences

1. **Audray Harris** (Microbiology)
2. **David P. Aiello** (Microbiology)
3. **Karita D. Ambrose** (Microbiology)

Session 5—Arts and Humanities

1. **Anne Stipo Nicol** (English)
2. **Catherine Stevens** (Art History)
3. **Aysha D. Bey** (English)

Session 6—Physical Science and Engineering

1. **Krista Kilpadi** (Biomedical Engineering)
2. **William E. Garrett, Jr.** (Environmental Health Engineering)

Session 7—Life Sciences

1. **Monika Oli** (Biochemistry)
2. **Jeffrey Sfakianos** (Microbiology)
3. **Lynn Sherrer** (Biochemistry)

Session 8—Life Sciences

1. **Cristina G. de Guzman** (Medical Genetics)
2. **Shirley B. Shelton** (Pathology)
3. **Scott Deken** (Neurobiology)

Barker Awards for Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics, English

Each year, the Graduate School confers upon two students one of its highest honors: The Samuel B. Barker Award for Excellence in Graduate Study.

Bryan A. Moore is the doctoral winner for 2001. Moore, who has studied at UAB since 1995 and is currently finishing two articles for publication, is in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics.

Aysha Bey, from the Department of English, is the master's winner for 2001. Bey is also a two-time winner in Graduate Student Research Day and hopes to present her research at two upcoming national conferences.

The Samuel B. Barker Award was first given in 1995. The award is named for Barker in recognition of his service as the first dean of the UAB Graduate School. Recipients of the award this year received their awards directly from Dr. Barker, who is still active in campus events and attended both the competition and awards luncheon for Graduate Student Research Day this year.

Special Issue Planned for June

The next issue of the Graduate School newsletter will arrive in late June. A special issue about semester conversion, it will cover new courses, workshops, and schedules. Watch for it!

Complete the Dissertation in GRD 704

You've pulled your committee together. You're analyzing your results. That's great, but it also means it's time to think about pulling the dissertation together—deciding what to put in and what to leave out, triple-checking organization, ensuring clarity of language, selecting an appropriate style guide, fixing the margins, placing the figures . . . you get the idea. And that doesn't include the anxiety that often surrounds just getting started writing.

Take heart. People who have helped hundreds of students finish up their graduate studies can help you do the same. The Graduate School Professional Development Program offers a course that can give you direction, structure, and assistance with navigating any stage of preparing the dissertation. The course is GRD 704, Specialized Instruction, and it is offered each term for variable credit hours (1-9 hours).

Registered students meet with one of the program's specialists to discuss or practice just about anything: writing a paper, presenting at a conference, or even applying for funding. The course is available to all graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and is listed in the UAB Class Schedule under the heading of Graduate School. Interested students should contact Dr. Julia Austin (jaustin@uab.edu, 975-6539) or Ms. Nancy Abney (nabney@uab.edu, 934-8129) to learn more about how the variable credit hours influence the individual plan of the course.

UAB GRADUATE
SCHOOL

HUC 511
1530 3rd Ave S
Birmingham, AL 35294-1150

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