Welcome to the University Writing Center

Welcome! The University Writing Center, located in Sterne Library 175, offers free one-on-one writing consultations for all UAB students. We help with all types of writing and at all stages of the writing process. Please visit our website regularly for the most up-to-date information, as we are always making updates to serve UAB students better. We look forward to working with you!

To make an appointment, click the button to the left and log in with your Blazer ID and password. We also accept drop-in appointments, depending on our availability.

We offer 30-minute writing consultations that are open and free for all UAB students, from those in their first year all the way up to graduate students. Our experienced tutors will help students at any stage of the writing process, from understanding the assignment and brainstorming ideas to revising and refining a final draft. While we do not edit for students, we can help writers learn about their common errors and develop better editing processes. Please note that our one-on-one consultations are limited to current UAB students. At this time, we do not tutor faculty or alumni, but some of our workshops are open to the entire UAB community.

Summer Hours (June 2-August 1)

Monday 9:00-5:00
Tuesday 9:00-2:00, 3:00-5:00
Meet the Tutors
Click here to meet the tutors working in the writing center this semester.

Ask-a-Tutor
If you have a specific question about writing, the Ask-a-Tutor service can help. Simply email them with a question or short piece of writing (no longer than a paragraph), and a tutor will respond to you within 48 hours. People email us with all kinds of writing-related questions, including questions about research, grammar, formatting, documentation, and genres. We cannot review entire documents at this time.

Faculty members: Are you looking for a way to inform your students about our services? Please click here for a printable handout with information and FAQs. Our printable handout on different types of tutorials may also help you talk to your students about ways the UWC can assist them.
Resources

Handouts
Workshop Resources
Guides from Outside Sources
Research Help

UWC Handouts

CSE Style Summary
General Literature Review Guidelines
APA Literature Review Guide
How to: Write a Cover Letter
How to: Email, Formatting and Etiquette

More coming soon!

Follow @UABWritingCntr
Workshop Resources

Didn't make it to a workshop you wanted to attend? Check out the resources below to see what you missed! Instructors, feel free to use any of the materials below in your own classes.

**Strategies for Editing**
- PowerPoint presentation
- Sample passage for editing practice

**Integrating Sources**
- PowerPoint presentation
- Handout with strategies
- Handout with activity

**Introduction to Visual Analysis**
- PowerPoint presentation
- Handout with activity

**Writing the Fulbright Essays**
- PowerPoint presentation
- Handout with activity

**Writing Sample for the Teacher Education Program (TEP)**
- PowerPoint presentation
- Directions and Rubric for exam

**National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships**
- Handout on graduate research statement
- Handout on personal, relevant background, and future goals statement

**Additional Resources**
Below are additional resources that you may find useful for self-study or classroom use.

The Writing Process

Improving Sentence Structure

Improving Paragraphs

Improving Word Choice

Summary and Synthesis

Follow @UABWritingCntr
Guides from Outside Sources

APA Literature Review Quick Guide

The Rhetorical Triangle

Purdue Online Writing Lab

More Coming Soon!

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Research Help
Sterne Library Resources

UAB's Mervyn Sterne Library offers a number of fantastic resources to assist you with research projects. The library provides a number of research guides for researchers at all levels, as well as face-to-face support and assistance via email, chat, and phone. We encourage students working on research papers to take advantage of the UWC's central location in Sterne Library. For example, you could meet with a UWC tutor to brainstorm topics for your research paper and then sit down with a librarian to get help finding sources for the topic you select. Or, you could start by working with a librarian to find sources, hang out in Starbucks while you read what you found, and then see a UWC tutor for help with synthesizing those sources into your writing.

Please visit the full Sterne Library website to see everything that is available. You might also look at the full list of Research Guides or the Undergraduate Research Toolkit. Below are just a few specific resources that we think you might find particularly helpful.

- Research Worksheet
- Evaluating Internet Sources
- Citing Your Sources
- MLA Quick Guide and End of Paper Checklist for MLA Style
- Scholarly Journals: What are They?
- Google Scholar Quickstart
- Endnote Web

Purdue Online Writing Lab

The Purdue OWL offers a number of free online resources for research. Please visit the OWL soon to see all that's available. Below are just a few resources that might be especially useful for those working on research writing.
• Evaluating Sources of Information
• Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing
• Avoiding Plagiarism
• MLA Style
• APA Style
• Chicago Style

Follow @UABWritingCntr
UWC Workshops

Throughout the semester, the UWC hosts a number of workshops that are open to all UAB students. Workshops cover a range of topics and will be useful to writers across the curriculum. Please check back regularly, as we are always adding to our workshop offerings. Also, please contact us with any ideas for additional workshops!

Unless otherwise noted, all workshops are held in Sterne Library, Room 174.

Summer 2014 Workshops

Analyzing Visual Texts: Thursday, June 19, 1:00-2:00
Integrating Sources: Tuesday, July 8, 1:00-2:00
Strategies for Editing: Tuesday, July 22, 1:00-2:00

Accelerate Your Dissertation

Are you working on a dissertation and in need of support? Check out Accelerate Your Dissertation, monthly workshops hosted by the UAB Graduate School and University Writing Center. Workshops run from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM in Sterne 174; laptops provided for sessions. Click here to register.

Workshop themes are below:

- February 12: Strength Training for Writers--Writing a proposal or literature review.
March 12: Plan the Writing/Work the Plan--Developing regular writing sessions and time management strategies.

April 9: Crossing the Finish Line--Completing a dissertation manuscript.

Workshop Requests
All UAB faculty members can request writing workshops for their courses. If you request this service, you can expect that Writing Center consultants will work closely with you to plan a workshop that best fits the needs of your students. Workshops can address any stage or element of the writing process, including pre-writing, drafting, revision, and editing. Workshops can also target specific writing skills, such as proofreading for style or incorporating sources. Possible workshop topics include: Getting Started on a Writing Project, Improving Your Writing Process, or Proofreading Your Writing.

In addition to student workshops, the UWC provides teaching workshops for any UAB faculty who are interested in improving how they teach writing. Possible workshop topics include: Using Write-to-Learn Strategies or Creating Rubrics for Writing Assignments. Stay tuned for teaching workshops throughout the year. Faculty may also request a workshop or consultation about the teaching of writing; just like the student workshops, these can be tailored to meet specific needs and goals.

Please contact Jaclyn Wells for more information about writing and teaching workshops: 205-996-7179 or This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

Classroom Visits
Faculty members can request classroom visits to inform their students about the writing center. In only 15 minutes, we can explain our services and encourage students to take advantage of what we offer. We are happy to visit your classroom or hold the orientation in the UWC—your choice! Please contact Jaclyn Wells for more information.

Follow @UABWritingCntr
Contact the University Writing Center

To schedule, cancel, or change an appointment, please click here and log on with your Blazer ID and password. The first time you log on, you will answer a few basic questions about who you are (major, class, etc.). Once you do that, you'll be able to easily sign up for tutorials for the rest of the semester. If you have any trouble accessing or using our online appointment system, you may call our front desk at 205-996-7178.

To contact UWC Director Jaclyn Wells, email This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it. . To ask short writing-related questions, email This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it. ; you will receive a response within 48 hours.

Tweets by @UABWritingCntr
**Information and FAQs**

**Spring 2014 Hours**
Hours are subject to change. Please check our website for the latest information.

- **Monday**: 9:00-5:00
- **Tuesday**: 9:00-5:00
- **Wednesday**: 9:00-9:00
- **Thursday**: 9:00-5:00
- **Friday**: 9:00-Noon

*See our Meet the Tutors page for a list of tutor specialties!*

**Who can visit the UWC?**
The UWC is available to all UAB students! We welcome graduate and undergraduate students of all majors who are working on any type of writing. Students can have up to two 30-minute tutorials per week (or one 60-minute session). Services are completely free!

**Why should I meet with a tutor?**
Our tutors can help at any stage of the writing process: understanding an assignment, brainstorming, drafting, revising, and editing. Writing is often considered an independent process, but successful writers generally get feedback. UWC tutors can provide just that!

**What can I expect during a tutoring session?**
Tutoring sessions are 30 minutes long. We want tutorials to be as beneficial to you as possible, so your tutor will begin by asking what you want to work on. Generally, we like to focus first on what we call “Higher Order Concerns.” These include things like your thesis, organization, and development of ideas. After we have addressed these concerns, we can move on to “Lower Order Concerns,” which include sentence-level correctness and style. While this is our general preference, the focus of the tutorial really is up to you.

**Will a tutor proofread my paper?**
Tutors will not make corrections to your paper for you. However, they will be glad to look over the draft with you and point out and correct problems in grammar, syntax, and structure. The goal is for you to improve not just your paper, but your editing process.

**What should I bring to a tutorial?**
Bring anything that will help your tutor understand what you’re working on. Usually, writers will bring a copy of the paper they want help with; if you don’t have a full draft yet, feel free to bring an outline or any other type of pre-writing. Some students bring in marked-up drafts of papers; while we will not remark on your professor’s comments or your grade, a tutor can help you better understand feedback and help you revise based on it. You may also bring assignment directions (those are really useful!), syllabi, and textbooks.
Please note that we have limited computers and printers. Please bring a print copy of any materials (like your paper draft) or your own laptop to open any relevant materials.

**How do I make an appointment?**
To make an appointment, visit our website at www.uab.edu/writingcenter and log onto our online scheduling system using your Blazer ID and password. The first time you log in, you’ll be prompted to provide some general information about yourself (major, class, etc.). After this one-time registration, you’ll be all set to make appointments. Each time you log on, you will be able to view all available tutoring sessions and select a time.

You can also cancel or reschedule an appointment in the online scheduling system. If you do need to cancel, please do so at least 30 minutes in advance. Please note that we do deny future tutoring sessions to students who repeatedly miss scheduled appointments.

**Do I have to make appointment or can I just stop by?**
Having an appointment will guarantee there will be a tutor ready to work with you when you visit the UWC, but we do accept drop-in appointments. If you have some time open in your schedule and want to see if anyone is available to work with you, please stop by! We often have tutors available to work with you on the spot.

**Can I just email my paper and receive comments?**
Not quite. Right now, we do offer a service called Ask-A-Tutor. This is an online resource where students can email specific questions about their writing to a tutor. Students can access this service by emailing their questions to askatutor@uab.edu. Students can expect a response within 48 business hours. We also offer online tutoring exclusively for students enrolled in online courses—see your instructor for more information.

**Will my instructor know I’ve visited the UWC?**
We only contact instructors of English 091 students, as UWC visits are part of the course. If you are not enrolled in English 091, we will not contact your instructor unless you ask us to. Sometimes, students like for us to contact their instructor to show they have taken the initiative to get extra help, and we are happy to do that for you if you would like. When we contact instructors, we send a simple email that reports what we worked on in the tutorial. Something like, “Today, Jake and I brainstormed ideas for his personal narrative essay.” When we contact instructors, we never comment on grades or evaluate your writing.

**What else do you offer?**
In addition to one-on-one tutorials, we offer Ask-a-Tutor (see above) and workshops. Every semester, we put on several workshops about different aspects of writing. These workshops are free and open to everyone in the UAB community. Please check our website regularly for a workshop schedule and for more information on all of our services.

**How can I learn more?**
For more information, please stop by during our open hours. We are located on the first floor of Sterne Library in room 175. Please see our website for all of our latest information. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter. We look forward to working with you!
How can the UWC help?
You can come to the UWC to get help at any stage of your writing process. Below are the most common reasons students come to the UWC, from the beginning to the end of the writing process. When you get your syllabus or a new writing assignment, you might refer to this handout as you plan how the UWC will fit into your writing process.

| Understanding Your Assignment & Getting Started | Situation: You have been given an assignment sheet and a list of due dates. |
|------------------------------------------------|==========================================================================|
| How we can help: We can help you read through your assignment sheet to make sure you fully understand what you are supposed to be doing. There is nothing more frustrating than finishing a paper and realizing that you have to start over because you haven’t done what the assignment asked. Skip this frustration by seeing us before you even start writing! We can also help you map a plan for completing the assignment so you’re not waiting until the last minute (another source of unnecessary stress!). |
| What to bring: Assignment sheet. |

| Brainstorming Ideas & Forming an Outline | Situation: You’re not sure what to write for your new assignment. |
|------------------------------------------|==================================================================|
| How we can help: One of the best ways to figure out what to write is just to talk to someone about your ideas. We can help you brainstorm ideas and figure out if your ideas fit your assignment. We can also help you sketch out an outline from your ideas so that when you leave and start to draft, you have a map to guide you. |
| What to bring: Assignment sheet & any pre-writing or notes from class. |

| Drafting the Paper | Situation: You have some stuff written, but you don’t have a complete draft yet. |
|--------------------|================================================================================|
| How we can help: Have you ever written part of your paper and felt unsure of what to write next? We can help at that stage! A tutor can sit down with you, look at your assignment and what you have written so far (even if it’s only a first paragraph), and help you figure out where to go next. If you feel you have nothing left to write, we can help you develop your ideas and deal with the dreaded writer’s block. |
| What to bring: Assignment sheet & anything you have written. |

| Revising & Editing | Situation: You have a full draft, and you’d like someone to look at it. |
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| How we can help: The best way to revise your writing is to have someone else—a real audience!—look at it with you. We can read your paper and look at higher order concerns like thesis statement, organization, etc. We can also look at lower order concerns like grammar, style, and formatting. If you have any errors you make frequently, we can help you find and correct those errors so you improve over time. |
| What to bring: Assignment sheet & paper draft (printed or on your laptop) |

| Understanding Instructor Feedback | Situation: You got your paper back with instructor comments. |
|----------------------------------|================================================================|
| How we can help: Tutors will never comment on your grade or your instructor. However, we can help you understand instructor comments and think about how they can help you improve for your next paper. If you have any error patterns that your instructor notes (for example, fragment sentences or run-ons), we can help you understand and learn to correct the error. |
| What to bring: Assignment sheet & paper with instructor comments. |
Accelerate Your Dissertation at UAB with Proven Strategies that Speed Time to Degree

Second Wednesdays, February, March & April
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Writing Lab, Room 174
UAB Sterne Library
A Collaboration of the UAB Graduate School & University Writing Center

- Feb. 12: Strength Training for Writers: Writing a Proposal and/or Literature Review, Wednesday, Feb. 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- March 12: Plan the Writing/Work the Plan: Regular Writing Sessions & Time Management Tips, March 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- April 9: Crossing the Finish Line: Completing a Dissertation Manuscript, April 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Free mini-workshops for doctoral students writing a dissertation proposal, or manuscript in 2014. Laptops provided. Bring your lunch.

Register now through EventBrite at this link http://www.eventbrite.com/o/uab-graduate-school-professional-development-program-4693219165?aff=71992927

Limited Seating

For more information, contact the instructors: Jennifer L. Greer, Ph.D., at jlgreer1@uab.edu or Kellie R. Carter, Ph.D., at kcarter@uab.edu