Writing Center – Frequently Asked Questions

The Writing Center at the University of North Texas provides support for undergraduate and graduate writers across the disciplines. Our mission is to help students improve as writers at all levels. Here is some general information about what we do and how to use our services.

Who should use the Writing Center?

Everyone! We believe that all writers will benefit from sharing their work with a tutor. Whether you are an undergraduate writing your first college paper, or a graduate student working on a dissertation, we can help. In addition to helping with coursework, we can also help with resumes, cover letters and personal statements.

We are excited to work with writers in the humanities and social sciences as well as in the physical and biological sciences. We will work with short and long writing projects at any stage.

Who are the tutors at the Writing Center?

We have highly-skilled undergraduate tutors from many different majors who have been selected for their strong writing ability and their desire to help their peers. Tutors receive initial and ongoing training in writing genres, citation conventions, facilitating discussion, and assessing drafts. We also have graduate writing tutors who work exclusively with graduate students.

What happens during an appointment?

Appointments for undergraduates are 30 minutes long. Graduate appointments are scheduled for an hour. Your tutor will want to start by chatting with you about your assignment or writing project. If you have a draft, the tutor will want to go over it to get a sense of the paper as a whole. You and your tutor will decide together what to focus on in terms of revision.

Here are just some writing topics you might discuss:

- Developing your ideas
- Creating and supporting an argument
- Grammar rules
- Making your writing more clear
- Making your writing more concise
- Citations and paraphrasing
- Structure and organization
- Introductions and conclusions

What should I bring?

Please bring the assignment instructions, if you have them. Bring a draft, or we can help you brainstorm or start an outline. We have a few computers in our main center for use during appointments, and you are always welcome to bring a laptop.
When are you open? Where are you open? Do I need an appointment?

Our main center in 305 GAB is appointment only, though during slower times of the semester or when we have cancelations, you may be able to get in right away. Stop by or call 940-565-2563 to schedule. Our hours are from 9:00 – 9:00, Monday – Thursday and from 9:00 – 3:00 on Fridays. We do offer walk-ins at Willis Library on Sunday – Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 9:00. You can stop by at 5:00 when the tutor arrives to sign up for a slot that night – first come, first served.

Students may have up to 1 hour of instruction total per day, i.e., one 30-minute appointment in the main center and a 30 minute appointment in the library, or two 30-minute appointments in the main center (not back-to-back). Graduate students working with our graduate tutors can schedule 1 hour of instruction per week, either online or in-person.

We have one more location exclusively for graduate students in engineering in the library at Discovery Park, room B112. Please e-mail writingcenter-DP@unt.edu for details.

Do you have online appointments?

Yes! We have online appointments in our main center from 9:30 – 9:00, Monday – Thursday, and from 9:30 – 3:00 on Fridays. Please call 940-565-2563 or e-mail us at writingcenter@unt.edu to schedule an online conference.

Our graduate tutors also offer online appointments for graduate students. Please e-mail gradwriting@unt.edu to schedule.

How can I make the most of my appointments?

Ideally, we recommend seeing us early and often! The more appointments you have, the more improvement you will likely see in your writing. We also recommend coming in to see us at multiple stages of the writing, allowing ample time after each appointment for revision. (We also understand that the ideal may not always be possible, but that’s okay – we’ll still be happy to work with you.)

Will you be able to read my whole paper?

Please keep in mind that if you have a long draft or a complex project, we are not likely to get through all of it in one appointment. You can generally expect to work on about five pages per half-hour in-person, though this varies. For online appointments, it usually takes longer to get through the same draft online vs. in-person (i.e., it may take an hour to work in detail on a five page draft), so please plan accordingly.