

University of Houston Writing Center Faculty Resources

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the some of the services offered by the UH Writing Center to faculty and students. In addition to these general services, the Writing Center also offers individualized faculty support based on the course needs.

Assistance for faculty

The UH Writing Center offers a variety of assistance for faculty interested in incorporating writing into their courses, for example:

1. Curriculum design – Students produce stronger writing and are more comfortable immersing themselves in the writing process when they fully understand instructor expectations. Writing Center experts in pedagogy and instructional design are available to consult with faculty on writing assignments within their course in order to ensure that expectations and evaluation criteria are being effectively conveyed to students. This often increases student investment and results in higher quality writing that can reduce the grading workload.
2. Scoring rubric development – The Writing Center can help in establishing appropriate and challenging expectations clearly stated as objectives and in the flexible practical form of rubrics. These rubrics help students understand better what they should be accomplishing and instructors assess better the progress they are making.
3. Teaching assistant training – In order to support the consistent application of evaluation standards and ensure that grading practices are as expedient as possible, the Writing Center can offer training services for graduate assistants on an individual and departmental basis.
4. Course-dedicated consultations – Faculty may prefer to offer students a more individualized approach to writing center consultations. The Writing Center works with individual faculty members in a variety of disciplines to develop a student consultation program that meets the particular course needs. Students sign up for consultation times designated solely for the course and meet with consultants trained on the course's purpose or assignment's genre, for example.

5. Short courses on departmentally identified writing genres – The Writing Center also offers assistance to faculty on departmentally identified writing genres, such as business memos, presentations, reports, email, executive summaries, etc. The process typically involves (a) identification by Bauer faculty of the genre, (b) assistance by the Writing Center in developing the curriculum and assignments, and (c) presentation of the writing genre to the class by the Writing Center. This process is most beneficial to students when the short course is taught as a team by both the Writing Center and instructor.
6. Writing studios – Writing studios are made up of small groups of students who meet regularly to collaborate and discuss the writing process within the context of their course and its assignments. A Writing Center facilitator is present to make sure discussions remain focused and to provide guidance when necessary. However, the content of the studio is driven by the group. As students actively participate in the research and writing process, they not only improve their research and writing skills, but also develop skills in critical reading and responding to others' research.

More detailed descriptions of the above services can be found by accessing the following website: <http://www.uh.edu/writecen/Faculty/index.php>.

Student resources

In addition to the individualized support provided above, the Writing Center offers all students the following general services:

1. 30 minute General Writing Consultations for students – Students may make appointments to meet with a writing consultant via the Writing Center's online scheduler. These appointments are student-driven in that students may receive assistance on any assignment. Students may receive assistance on any writing project, including presentation materials. These consultations are available to all students.
2. Live chat – This feature is new and allows students to ask short questions about grammar rules, citations, writing process, and writing center services. This feature is available on the Writing Center's website: www.uh.edu/writecen/Students/policy.php.

For a more individualized consultation about the Writing Center's services, please contact:

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