

2022-2023



# OU Writing Center

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## Annual Report



### **Prepared by**

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Dr. Ashton Foley-Schramm, Associate Director



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# Executive Summary

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the OU Writing Center focused on three primary goals, 1) improving and expanding the Center's web and social media presence, 2) direct outreach to students and faculty, and 3) program assessment, including the effectiveness of outreach efforts. Writing Center leadership designed and launched a new website and dedicated greater resources and attention to social media. Center leadership and student staff also increased participation in campus resource fairs, welcome events, and classroom workshops, reaching 215% more students compared to the previous year. Assessment procedures included data collection on how many students used Center services due to these efforts. The Director and Associate Director also performed a larger scale assessment to determine factors contributing to repeat visits. This report details the efforts described above.

This report covers the dates of  
August 1, 2022 - July 31, 2023.



# Vision and Mission



OU Writing Center  
*The University of Oklahoma*

## Vision

- The OU Writing Center is a pedagogical service that supports OU undergraduate and graduate students as well as members of the Norman/OKC community. The primary goal of our services is to help writers learn something they can use in the future.
- The OU Writing Center welcomes all writers and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, language background, age, marital status, veteran status, or disability. We consider difference to be a seed for learning, writing, and a just society.

## Mission

Our goal is to provide support for all writers in the University of Oklahoma community. The Writing Center Staff is committed to:

- Offering feedback in writing consultations in the form of thoughtful suggestions, asking clarifying questions, as well as providing print and online resources
- Modeling approaches for editing and addressing the writer's writing concerns
- Consulting with writers through their writing process from pre-writing to final drafting
- Respecting an individual's agency as a writer by providing feedback as active listeners and readers who work generously to understand your aims and goals as a writer
- Offering multiple and accessible ways for all writers to learn collaboratively with us

Please note that we work diligently to support your development as a writer, and therefore, we are neither a proofreading nor grading service.

# Meet Our Team

## Leadership Team



**DR. TALISHA HALTIWANGER MORRISON**  
DIRECTOR, WRITING CENTER &  
EXPOSITORY WRITING



**DR. ASHTON FOLEY-SCHRAMM**  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, WRITING CENTER



**TARA RISENHOOVER**  
OPERATIONS AND FINANCE, WRITING CENTER &  
EXPOSITORY WRITING



**MELISSA STEWART**  
OFFICE MANAGER, WRITING CENTER &  
EXPOSITORY WRITING

This unit is directly supported by the Office of the Provost.

## Student Staff

### At a Glance

- 10** graduate consultants
- 10** undergraduate consultants
- 4** office assistants (OAs)
- 22** total student staff\*



Political Science  
Accounting Medical School  
**Psychology** English Writing  
Musical Theatre Adult & Higher Education  
**Communications** Dramaturgy  
Biochemistry Information Science & Technology Advertising  
Professional Writing **TESOL** Biology  
Rhetoric & Writing Studies  
ILAC English Education  
Public Relations

Many of our student staff have multiple majors and minors. Communications (2), Psychology (2), and Education (2) were our most popular majors on staff.

\*All OAs are undergrads. Fall staff total: 19. Spring staff total: 22. Some OAs are also consultants and are only counted once for totals.

# Service Usage

## Consultations

The Writing Center offers three different types of consultations, which can be scheduled in advance or utilized on a drop-in basis. Consultations are scheduled through the online platform WOnline.

We offered services at our main location as well as at two satellite locations-- one close to the first-year dorms and one in the main library.

### Academic Year

**August 1, 2022 - July 31, 2023**

Video Conference  
558

Face-to-Face  
1422

**Total  
3599**

Written Feedback  
1619

### Top 5 Concerns

1. Organization
2. Clarity
3. Grammar and mechanics
4. Development and/or support of ideas
5. Sentence or paragraph structure

**6,780**  
total  
interactions

87%

**Undergraduates**

38%

**Repeat Clients**

37%

**Same-day Appointments**

28%

**First-year Students**

13%

**Grad students, staff,  
or community members**

**1800** Unique Clients

**2433** New Client Registrations

**119** Extended Reads





# Workshops, Write Nights, Camps, & Retreats

**1,833**

Total  
Interactions

**360**

Attendees  
(Camps,  
Retreats, &  
Write Nights)

**21**

Camps,  
Retreats, &  
Write Nights

**623**

Interactions via  
Workshops &  
Presentations

**27**

Class & WC  
Workshops

**850**

Interactions  
via Info Visits

**22**

Informational  
Class Visits

Both custom and pre-designed presentations are available from the Writing Center by request for both classes and OU-related groups. Workshops are primarily created and delivered by a director (if available) or a graduate consultant, although undergrad consultants have participated as well. The directors focused on outreach during the 2021-2022 year, leading to a 300% increase in class workshops for 2022-2023.

Two new workshops for this year were the Medical School Application workshops and the Queer Creativity Week (in collaboration with the Gender Equality Center) workshops. Both of these workshops were designed and delivered by current consultants.

The Writing Center has a long-standing history of offering events that cater to specific General Education courses. These Write Nights offer students enrolled in a particular course the opportunity to receive feedback from consultants and/or instructors on their current writing project. We offered Write Nights for First-Year Composition and Hlstory-- both continuing partnerships-- as well as for Gateway to Belonging-- a new partnership.

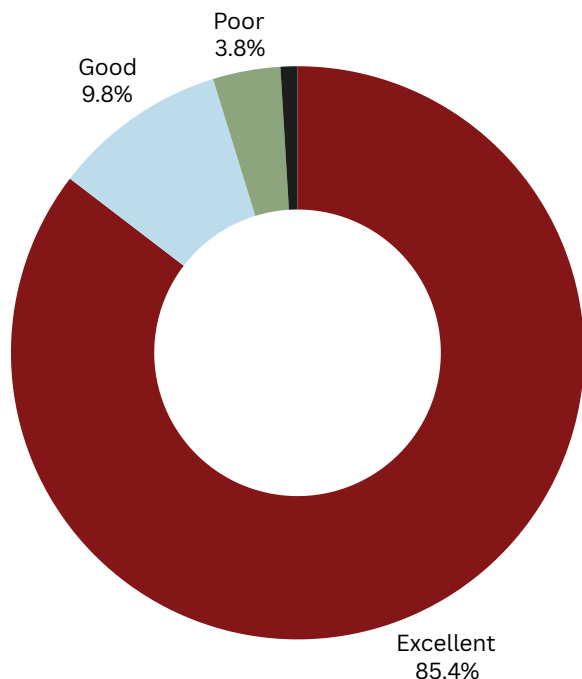
# Feedback from Writers

**315**  
Total Respondents  
9% response rate

Survey responses are  
anonymous.  
  
There is no incentive for  
survey completion.

**83%**  
non-incentivized or  
non-required visits

## How would you rate your session?



**95%**  
Rated session as  
good or excellent

**17%**  
Visited for extra credit

## Testimonials

“Amazing! [The consultant] helped me create great transitions, intro 2 sentences that supported my thesis, and a conclusion. She also allowed me to type my own ideas and encouraged me to communicate my thoughts before helping shape those into sentences. She was encouraging but challenged me to write a thought of what I wanted the sentences to say first. So much awesome help!

“I feel more confident than I did going into the writing session. I haven't written a research paper in a long time, and [the consultant] addressed my concerns with a lot of patience.

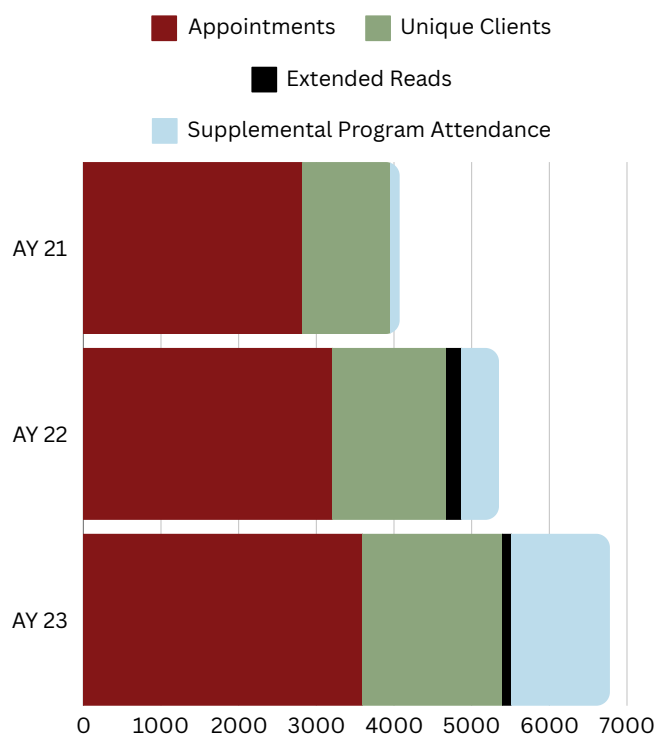
“Extremely well. All my questions and concerns were addressed. Additional resources were noted. This marked my 3rd or 4th visit this semester. I plan to return next week to review my final paper. A wonderful resource.. Thanks

**96%**  
Likely or highly likely to  
recommend WC to others

**96%**  
Likely or highly likely to return



# Multi-Year Comparison



The Writing Center saw an increase in the number of consultations (12.3% increase) from the previous year. This represents steady growth each year since AY 21. The number of unique clients served in these appointments also increased at a higher rate (22% increase) from AY 22.

Extended Read submissions were down (41% decrease) from AY 22. The directors attribute this to an increase in video and written appointments, which were first introduced to the Center because of the pandemic. Writers are utilizing those services instead of the Extended Reads.

	AY 21	AY 22	AY 23
<b>Appointments</b>	2819	3202	3599
Percent increase/decrease		↑ 13.5%	↑ 12.3%
<b>Unique Clients</b>	1131	1470	1800
Percent increase/decrease		↑ 30%	↑ 22%
<b>Extended Reads</b>		201	119
Percent increase/decrease			↓ 41%
<b>Supplemental Programs</b>	123	479	1262
Percent increase/decrease		↑ 289%	↑ 163%

Due to extensive outreach by the directors, the Writing Center continues to see a drastic increase in the number of students reached via supplemental programs (163% increase from AY 22). This is a positive sign of the Center's visibility and growing following on campus by both students and faculty.

#Total consultations does not include Extended Read numbers.

^Note: All consultations were conducted face-to-face prior to the pandemic. The exception was Extended Read appointments, which served as the only form of remote feedback option.

\*Note: The Unique Client total is not a sum across semesters.

# Contact the Writing Center



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write.ou.edu



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