Writing Fellow Program

EIU Writing Center & Writing Across the Curriculum

Definition of a Writing Fellow

A Writing Fellow is a writing consultant (tutor) who is assigned to a specific course and its professor for a given semester. The fellow acts as an ally in the writing process for students and their instructor by providing peer feedback to students on drafts of their writing assignments.

A Writing Fellow has the following responsibilities:

- Offer feedback to all of the students in a course as they work on major papers
- Attend class every day to become familiar with course content and the discourse conventions of the discipline
- Provide a student (peer) perspective on the instructor’s writing assignments
- Meet with the instructor of the course on a regular basis to describe and discuss students’ responses to writing assignments

The Writing Fellow does not grade assignments. As a writing consultant, s/he simply acts as an important middle person in the writing process, offering feedback and a different set of eyes on students’ writing. Like a writing consultant in the Writing Center, the fellow works by engaging students in one-on-one conversations focused on important aspects of the writing process such as brainstorming topics, ideas, and support; developing ideas and analyzing details; using sources effectively; creating cohesive paragraphs; strengthening focus and transitions; and developing effective strategies for editing and proofreading.

These practices align with the “Mission and Philosophy” of the Writing Center and reflect what we say on our web site about “The Goals of Writing Conferences.”
Your Role as a Faculty Member

The presence of a writing fellow in the classroom can help a faculty member implement a stronger writing process approach to assignments. Students will benefit from consistent and coordinated feedback from the writing fellow and their instructor. The faculty member gets useful information about students’ progress through writing assignments and the opportunity to see those assignments through a different set of eyes.

A faculty member connected with a writing fellow has the following responsibilities:

- Meet with the WAC Director and Writing Fellow prior to the semester to discuss the course and to consider how the fellow can be deployed to meet the learning needs of students
- Provide the writing fellow with textbooks and other necessary course materials
- Seek feedback about writing assignments from the Director of Writing Across the Curriculum and/or the Writing Fellow prior to and during the semester
- Meet with the writing fellow on a regular basis to talk about the learning goals of the course and how each writing assignment connects to those learning goals
- Work with the WAC Director to create a presentation, coordinate a writing-related workshop in a specific department or program, or otherwise disseminate information about this experience

For more information about what the EIU Writing Center can offer your students, please visit our “For Faculty” page and review “The Writing Center and the Goals of Writing Conferences,” and our “Mission and Philosophy.”
**Faculty Member Application**
Send to Fern Kory, Director of Writing Across the Curriculum, fkory@eiu.edu

Name: ________________________________  Department: ________________________________

Course: ________________________________

Course meeting time and location: ________________________________

Semester: ________________________________

Anticipated student enrollment in this course: _______  Enrollment cap: _______

Approximate number of times you have taught this course at EIU: _______

**Please provide brief answers to the questions below:**

1. Describe the learning goals and methods of this course.

2. What is your current approach to teaching writing in this class?

3. Why are you interested in having a writing fellow in your class? How will the writing fellow complement your teaching practice or help you implement new methods or assignments?

4. How many formal assignments do you plan to assign in this course? Briefly describe them. Explain how you imagine a Writing Fellow could support your students as they work through the process of drafting and revising their writing in response to some or all of these assignments.

5. Will students have the opportunity to revise any of their written work? If so, which assignment(s)?