

Online Writing Assistance

Question:

I am curious if institutions offer graduate writing assistance to distance graduate students and if so, how are you doing it (synchronous or asynchronous?) How do the tutors provide feedback/assistance?

- Justin R. Louder, Associate Vice Provost, Texas Tech University
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Answers:

We have created a synchronous hybrid 0-credit course that has in-class students and distance students connecting via Adobe Connect. The course is targeted to student who have finished coursework and need additional support as they write their dissertations. We also are in the early stages of developing an online self-paced course in collaboration with our Writing Center.

- Michele H. Jackson, Associate Provost for University ELearning Initiatives, College of William and Mary
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The Writing Center at Oakland University (OUWC) offers services to both graduate and undergraduate. Here is their website with info about graduate services: <https://www.oakland.edu/ouwc/gradservices/>

While I don't work at the Writing Center, I know that they do both face-to-face appointments for students that can come to the library (where they're located) and they also use WebEx to offer online appointments. With WebEx they can do screen sharing and pretty much all of the things they do during a normal appointment with a walk-in student.

On the left-hand bottom side of the webpage is contact information for the OUWC if you have any specific questions for them.

- Shaun Moore, Oakland University
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We use Smart Thinking (third party vendor) that our online faculty have been very pleased with. They



offer online tutoring (integrated in the LMS) in many subjects and one of them is relative to writing. Our graduate programs with thesis and dissertations require students to submit their work first via Smart Thinking and show evidence of the feedback and incorporation of the suggestions made. It works well and students seem to also appreciate it a great deal.

- Len Roberson, Associate Vice-President, Office of Academic Affairs, University of North Florida

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California State University, Fresno offers synchronous graduate writing help via Zoom, a video conferencing platform.

You can check out their video here: <http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/gradstudies/graduatewritingstudio.html>

They discuss Zoom and the way they provide feedback.

- Karen Carey, California State University

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At Goucher College we run a 14-week online course called The Writing Studio for students needing special assistance with writing. The course has a balance of synchronous and asynchronous components that include web conferencing, discussion forums, telephone, texting and email. The instructor provides ongoing feedback and assistance. Here are the topics and assignments:

Course topics:

- Reading and writing critically
- Thinking about writing – metacognition
- Reading for content by workshopping writing
- Planning, organizing and using evidence in academic writing and thinking
- Making a supported argument
- Editing and reviewing writing for clarity and effectiveness

Assignments:

- 6 live, synchronous workshop meetings with instructor, plus 2 individual sessions with the instructor
- 1 VoiceThread discussion/response
- 10 discussion board posts
- Final paper and posting to e-portfolio
- Assigned readings
- Online links and reading resources

- Linda Bruce, Director of Distance Learning, Goucher College



The Western eTutoring consortium started offering asynchronous tutoring for graduate writing fairly recently. It's run just like an online writing lab for undergrads except the tutors have to have specific training for graduate level writing. Students submit a paper and tutors write back with specific feedback. We have been a part of the WeTC for quite a few years now and have been very happy with it.

- Chris Dayley, Testing Center Manager, Utah State University

Webster University offers asynchronous writing assistance to any students currently registered for online courses. They focus primarily on global issues such as focus, development, and organization. They will look a little at grammar and sentence structure, but they do not fully proofread papers, just the first few paragraphs or pages, dependent upon the length. There is usually a three-day turnaround, longer during busy times, which does require students to work ahead. All communication is done via email. You can find more information on Webster's Academic Resource Center webpage: <http://www.webster.edu/academic-resource-center/writingcenter/online-writing-center.html>

- Katherine O'Connor, Online Student Retention Coordinator, Webster University

About:

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