

Mission

The Marian University Writing Center is an academic support service committed to helping students become competent, confident writers. The WC assists students at all stages of the writing process, particularly those at the developing and basic writing skill levels as well as students developing proficiency in learning English as their second language.

What we do:

- Provide consultation on any writing project.
- Offer suggestions on how you can improve your writing.
- Help you learn to document sources using APA or MLA.
- Help you to learn to paraphrase or summarize sources to avoid plagiarism.
- Offer a supportive and caring learning environment.
- Help you build skills and strategies for writing success.

What we do not do:

- Edit, proofread, rewrite, or otherwise "fix" your papers.
- Provide or discuss a grade.
- Do your writing for you.
- Tolerate or take responsibility for plagiarism.

Undergraduate students

The Writing Center is staffed by trained undergraduate tutors from diverse academic backgrounds. To get the most out of your tutoring session, bring with you:

- Specific goals for what you want to accomplish in your session.
- Ideas and questions about your writing.
- Syllabus or assignment requirements.
- Something to write with and something to write on.
- Necessary textbooks or sources.

Graduate students

The Writing Center can provide answers to specific questions concerning writing and documentation of sources. Graduate students are encouraged to consult with their faculty advisors and/or instructors if extensive editing or consultation on longer projects is required.

Who to contact in your graduate school program:

Nursing: Dr. Greta Kostac
Education: Dr. Randy Koetting

Online submission

The Writing Center can respond to On-line submissions by:

- Responding to specific questions regarding grammar & mechanics, composition, and formatting & citing sources.
- Providing students with a variety of resources, including links regarding grammar, mechanics, composition, citation formats, and other concerns, so students can learn and apply suggestions to their writing.

Note: The Writing Center staff will be unable to review an entire document/paper and correct the same errors throughout the writing. The staff will respond to the specific question, but it is the student's responsibility to apply the suggested corrections to the entire writing.

Details for students and faculty:

Length: Depending on the level of writing, tutors can provide feedback on 2-3 typed pages per half-hour session. Papers of more than 4-5 pages should be reviewed in separate sessions. Papers longer than 8-10 pages should be reviewed in at least 2-3 sessions.

Proofreading. Students should be prepared to ask specific questions about sentence level errors. Writing Center tutors will point out and explain *patterns* of errors, but cannot be expected to proofread for errors.

Requirements . The Writing Center is a self-selected service. When students are required to visit the Writing Center, they may not be as motivated to work with the tutors. They may look at visiting the Writing Center as punishment and may not be as receptive to suggestions.

Perfection. When students are penalized for every error, the Writing Center staff feels obligated to help them find word and sentence level errors. This does not help students to become better writers, but it does reinforce misconceptions about good writing. Faculty should not expect students to emerge from a Writing Center session with perfect papers.

Strong writers/weak writers. The Writing Center provides feedback for all writers. Individualized feedback and criticism are the best ways for students to improve writing skills.

Grades. The Writing Center cannot guarantee writing grades will improve. Improvement depends on individual students, assignments, writing situations, and motivation.

Online feedback: Online feedback takes 2-3 times as long as face-to face feedback. Online submissions will take 2 to 3 days to complete. Undergraduate students who visit the Writing Center in person will be the priority.

Graduate level writing: The Writing Center no longer has the staff to assist graduate students at any depth. In addition, most tutors will be undergraduate student tutors who are unqualified to assist with graduate level work.