

WAC Program Report, 2014-2015 Academic Year

Pavel Zemliansky, WAC Director

Building on the success of the WAC efforts since the 2011-2012 academic year, this year the WAC program continued to build new relationships with various units on campus while deepening and expanding existing projects with academic departments, programs, and colleges across the university.

During the past academic year, the WAC program worked on various projects with more than a dozen departments from five colleges of UCF. The continued expansion of WAC this academic year is reflected both in the broadening of our reach to more departments and the deepening of our collaboration with faculty in various units through existing and new projects. At the same time, as the program has matured and reached more units on campus, our attention has now begun to shift to sustaining and deepening existing relationships and finding new ways to serve existing constituents while continuing to seek out new ones. Overall, we can say that the WAC Program has developed a strong identity on this campus. We are now a fairly well known entity, popular with faculty from different disciplines, who are aware of our capability to help them improve their students' learning and writing.

The table below summarizes the program's main accomplishments this academic year. It is then followed by a more detailed explanation of the main projects:

Project	Results
Development of writing outcomes, assignments, and curriculum grids (WAC Fellows training program)	During the 2014-2015 academic year, the WAC Fellows Program led <u>19</u> members from <u>6 departments</u> , <u>representing 5 colleges</u> in the development of writing-related learning outcomes, writing assignments, and curriculum grids. Also, for the first time, the spring 2015 program added an online element, which allowed WAC Fellows to discuss the assigned readings on a Canvas site. This, in turn, allowed us to preview the fellows' responses before meeting in face-to-face sessions For a full list of tis year's WAC Fellows and the

departments they represent, please see below.

The total number of WAC Fellows since the beginning of the program in 2012 now stands at 91.

WAC Track and other involvement in the Faculty Development Conference

WAC Director Pavel Zemliansky and WAC Coordinators Lindee Owens and Steffen Guenzel presented a very well-attended panel during the FCTL winter conference. During the winter conference, we also conducted a round table on teaching citation in various disciplines.

As in previous years, during this year's Summer Faculty Development Conference, we led a "WAC Track"—a series of connected intensive work sessions focused on the development of new and revision of existing writing assignments and other related deliverables. 8 individual faculty members and teams from 6 departments participated in the track. Our strategy this year was "quality over quantity," which resulted in a smaller number of participants but in more rigorous projects with more potential for long-term success. In addition to running the WAC Track, the WAC Program's staff presented two panels at the conference: one on using writing to teach critical thinking; the other on designing discipline-specific writing assignments. Both panels were evaluated highly by the attendees, according to the evaluation forms forwarded to us by FCTL. We also conducted a faculty roundtable entitled "The Future of Writing in the Disciplines at UCF." For a full list of this year's WAC Track participants and the departments they represent, see below.

Individual Consultations with Faculty

In 2014-2015, the program continued to offer faculty individual consultations on

matters of writing instruction. Due to a growing reputation of the program across UCF and the realization by many faculty that sustained work on larger-scale WAC projects provides a larger return on investment than single consultations, the number of individual consultations we offered this year dropped somewhat. These consultations typically lasted from between one and two hours. The faculty members who, in the past, may have come to us for an individual consultation, now work with WAC through projects like the WAC Fellows program, WAC tracks, or others. Since the inception of the program in 2011, we provided over 100 individual consultations.

The WAC SOTL Project

We have designed and recruited participants for the WAC SOTL project, to be conducted in 2015-2016. The project will engage 16 past WAC Fellows in research projects about their teaching of discipline-specific writing and its results. 7 departments will be represented.

Disciplinary Writing Consultants and Chemistry GTA Training Programs

The Disciplinary Writing Consultant (DWC) program was coordinated by Steffen Guenzel, in collaboration with Mark Hall and the Writing Center. The bulk of the effort this year was in Chemistry. While we decided to “table” the program at the end of year for perceived lack of activity, I believe that it was a valuable experience, which deserves to be revisited and, perhaps, restarted, soon.

The work of the consultants was accompanied by a GTA training program developed and implemented by Steffen and Pavel in the spring of 2013 and continued in 2014-2015, for the GTAs who taught all CHM 2046 lab sections for

the Chemistry Department. The GTA program was carried out by Steffen Guenzel. The program appears to be successful in changing the culture of thinking about writing in the Department of Chemistry. For evidence of this, please see the unsolicited e-mail from Dr. Cherie Yestrebsky, interim Chair of Chemistry at the end of this report.

The Schell Award for Implementing Innovative Writing Instruction in the Disciplines

This year, we awarded the second Schell Award, this time to Dr. Yestrebsky, for her outstanding contributions to the teaching and learning of writing at UCF.

Pursue external funding

Program Director was included as a senior consultant into an NSF grant proposal by the College of Engineering.

More Information About the Projects

- **The WAC Fellows Program, Fall 2014, Spring of 2015** . The WAC Fellows program is the centerpiece of the WAC work at UCF, whose design follows the nationally and internationally recognized model of faculty development, centered around the development of student learning outcomes, curricular grids, and writing assignments by teams of disciplinary faculty. During the 2014-2015 academic year, 2 one-semester-long WAC Fellows sessions were conducted, training 19 members from 6 departments, representing 5 colleges. This work took 44 contact hours with the WAC Fellows throughout the year. In addition, about 25 hours were spent developing and revising training materials for the program and answering fellows' e-mail, phone, and face-to-face queries. The outcomes and the writing assignments developed by the WAC Fellows are posted on the WAC website and serve as models for further outcome and assignment development by faculty in other departments.

[A List of This Year's WAC Fellows](#)

Fall 2014

- Vicky Zygouris-Coe—College of Education and Human Performance
- Taylor Wenzel—College of Education and Human Performance
- Janet Andreasen—College of Education and Human Performance
- Carolyn Hopp--College of Education and Human Performance
- Rosa Cintron-Delgado-- College of Education and Human Performance
- Thomas Cox-- College of Education and Human Performance
- David Hagan—Associate Dean of College of Optics and Photonics
- Patrick Likamwa—College of Optics and Photonics
- Mercedeh Khajavikhan—College of Optics and Photonics

Spring 2015

- Nan Hua—Rosen College of Hospitality Management
- Ahmet Ozturk--Rosen College of Hospitality Management
- Murat Kizildag--Rosen College of Hospitality Management
- John Schultz—Anthropology
- Amanda Groff-- Anthropology
- Sandra Wheeler—Anthropology
- Lana Williams-- Anthropology
- Stacy Tanner—Philosophy
- Steven McFarlane—Philosophy
- Jeanine Viau--Philosophy

- **WAC Track at the Summer Faculty Development Conference**

Below is a list of the WAC Track Participants

Susan Jardaneh (IDS/English)

Nan Hua, Ahmet Ozturk, Murat Kizildag (Rosen)

Julie Pomerleau and Chiara Mazuchelli (Modern Languages)

Meredith Robertson (COPA)

Peter Jacques (Political Science)

- **Continued to conduct individual faculty consultations.** These individual consultations with faculty are conducted on the “as needed” basis and after individual faculty members contact the program with requests for such help. On average, these consultations have lasted between 45 and 60 minutes each and tend to focus on writing assignment and assessment design.
- **Continued to work with past years’ WAC Fellows.** In 2014-2015, we organized 3 “past WAC Fellows reunion” meetings, whose purpose was to keep the conversation about WAC going with past WAC Fellows and to continue providing them with necessary support. Over 30 past fellows attended the meetings, to discuss issues of assignment design, assessment, and integration of writing instruction into their department’s curricula.

GTA Training in Chemistry. For a summary of this activity, please see the information in the table above. Below is an unsolicited e-mail from Chemistry Chair Cherie Yestebsky:

Hi Steffen, I thought you might like to hear about this. With the summer semester starting soon, it's time to be making copies of syllabus' for classes.

“Three GTAs who are teaching the Organic labs (sophomore year class) came to show me their syllabus and talk about assignments. These GTAs are actually instructor of record for the course so they have a bit more control over the course than in the 2046L labs. They were all in agreement of including instruction on writing lab reports and were organizing the course in such a way as to provide more structure for their students in the writing component of the course. They actually seemed very passionate about this.

Steffen....it's sticking! The GTAs are learning and taking it to the upper level courses! Without anyone pushing them to do so!! I was so happy to see what they are doing. Hope you feel happy too. Your hard work with the Chemistry GTAs is paying off. Kudos! Now, how do we measure it??

Best wishes,

Cherie”