

Mission

The mission of the Warner School Writing Support Services is to create a supportive atmosphere for dialog about the writing process. Our consultants are readers engaged in students' writing, and offer a non-directive, responsive approach to providing students with the strategies needed to learn productive habits in all stages of writing.

Writing Workshops

In addition to consulting services, we also offer a series of single-topic workshops. Students and faculty are welcome to drop in on one or more of these workshops, which are offered year round. Visit our webpage for a schedule of Writing Workshops.

Contact Us

Visit our webpage at www.warner.rochester.edu/students/academics/writing or e-mail us at warnerwritingsupport@warner.rochester.edu.

Contact the director of Writing Support Services, Mary Jane Curry, associate professor, at mjcurry@warner.rochester.edu.



For more information, please contact the Warner School at (585) 275-3950 or visit warner.rochester.edu.

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WARNER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Writing Support Services



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What is Writing Support Services?

Writing Support Services is a free service that offers assistance to Warner students and faculty in all areas of writing. We view academic writing as a process. Our consultants are available to assist students as they develop multiple revisions to their work. Student visits to WSS are confidential.

What support is offered?

Students are expected to take responsibility for their choices about their own writing. We encourage students to take notes during consultation sessions. Among our services, we:

- Review your paper before a scheduled session and prepare questions that other readers may ask.
- Answer your questions and try to respond to your concerns about your paper.
- Direct your attention to resources that might prove useful.
- Suggest strategies, offer encouragement, and provide information to help you move forward with your work.
- Help you set priorities based on your needs, identifying points of revision that are possible within a particular timeframe.
- Help you clarify the point of a section or the whole paper by asking questions and listening to your answers.
- Indicate patterns in your writing that you may wish to modify: organization of points, sentence patterns, word choice, tone, grammar, etc.

What support is not provided?

Although we try to meet many needs of students, we cannot:

- Proofread or edit drafts of papers
- Address every strength and weakness in the draft, or point out every issue related to sentence structure, grammar, or mechanics.

- Promise that your paper will be finished when you leave the consultation; in all likelihood you will leave with work to do.
- Guarantee a one-to-one correlation between your consultation and better grades. Nor will we discuss grades during sessions.
- Guarantee that our interpretation of an instructor's assignment will be accurate.

Students who want editing or proofreading assistance will find a list of independent proofreaders who offer their services for a fee on the Resources page of the Writing Support Services website.

What takes place during a consulting session?

A typical session will address one or more of the following concerns: focus, organization/structure, audience, transitions, paragraph unity, and grammar/syntax.

How long is a typical session?

Sessions will be 50 minutes long, with an additional 5 to 10 minutes for wrap-up and evaluation. For papers longer than 15 pages, you should make several appointments during your writing process. Because of high demand, however, each student may only schedule one consultation per week.

Can I get help on take-home or comprehensive exams?

If you have questions about whether it is appropriate to get feedback from the Writing Support Services on take-home exams or comprehensive exams, please ask your instructor or advisor before bringing in your paper. Teaching and Curriculum doctoral students may not use Writing Support Services for help with their comprehensive exams, unless they are users of English as an additional language. Support for comprehensive examinations will be limited to two appointments per examination. Students may also bring revised comprehensive examinations for writing support (for an additional two appointments).

How can I schedule an appointment?

Appointments can be scheduled and cancelled at www.warner.rochester.edu/scheduling/wss. However, if you cancel within three hours of your appointment time, you will be considered a "no show." Students who are "no shows" for three appointments during one semester will be blocked from appointments for the rest of the semester.

The earlier in the writing process you use Writing Support Services, the more helpful the consultants can be. Keep in mind that scheduling an appointment for the day before a paper is due will most likely be more stressful than helpful. Please allow at least three to four days for revision between your appointment and the assignment due date.

When you schedule a session you will receive a confirmation email stating the location of your consultation—there is no longer an office dedicated to WSS consultations.

How can I get the most out of a session?

No less than 24 hours before your appointment, please e-mail the following to: warnerwritingsupport@warner.rochester.edu:

- The writing prompt or assignment from the instructor.
- Your paper, double-spaced. If it is a long text, either send a section or note which section you want to receive support on. (If you have not started to write your paper, bring your notes and ideas about it.)
- A statement in your e-mail that identifies two or three areas that you would like to focus on during the session (e.g., your argument, organization, clarity, APA style, etc.).

If your text is not ready 24 hours in advance, you may still bring content and ideas for discussion; however, the consultant will not prepare in advance. Consultants are not available to go over the specifics of an assignment; please contact the instructor with these questions.