

# Writing Center Annual Report 2018-2019

LINDENWOOD  
UNIVERSITY  
WRITING CENTER



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## Director's Message



I am pleased to share the 2018-19 Annual Report for the Lindenwood University Writing Center.

It takes a talented, compassionate group of trained staff members to support students' needs when it comes to writing. Our Masters degreed Writing Specialists support both our graduate and undergraduate students, and our trained student workers support our undergraduate students. We cover all areas of writing, from brainstorming to identify a topic, thesis development, organization, structure, and source integration.

We are grateful for the continuous collaboration with the Dean of Library Services, Liz MacDonald and the library staff. A special thank you to library staff member Leah Rosenmiller and library interns who created this report: Madi DiMercurio, Aleksandra Tomala, and Caring De Freitas.

This Writing Center report provides a look into what we do, who we serve, and how we serve them.

Susan Edele  
Director of the Writing Center





## Writing Center Staff



**Susan Edele**

Director of the Writing Center, MA, MFA



**Laura Reilly**

Assistant Director, MA



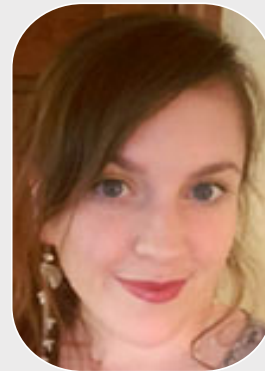
**Casey Freeman**

Writing Specialist, MFA



**Gerred Zingale**

Writing Specialist, MFA



**Molly Hamilton**

Writing Specialist, MFA

## Who We Are

The Lindenwood Writing Center is located in the LARC, suite 333. The Writing Center is a place where students, faculty, and staff can find resources for academic success including a qualified staff to help edit assignments, a quiet study area with computers, and a space where the Creative Writing Club can collaborate.



The services offered by the Writing Center support the development of writing skills and lead to better quality assignments.

Total consultations  
**1,887**

Online students and distance learners have access to the Writing Center's services through online consultations, email, and video conferencing.



# Assisting the Lindenwood Community

## Supporting Students

- Writing Specialists help students improve their writing techniques by assisting with
  - Narrowing down a topic or thesis
  - Revising a rough draft
  - Identifying grammatical errors
  - Formatting and citation revisions
  - Adding in source material or research
- Writing Specialists embed in online courses to provide easy access to Writing Center services and to act as an academic resource throughout the semester.

## Ways to schedule a Writing Center appointment



In person



WC  
Online



636.949.4870



writingcenter@lindenwood.edu

## Supporting Faculty and Staff

- Faculty and staff can utilize the Writing Center for help with editing their scholarship, dissertation, or grants.
- Writing Specialist can present in classes about Writing Center services or specific topics related to writing or publishing.
- The Writing Center has modules that can be uploaded to Canvas as resources for students.
- Faculty can refer students to the Writing Center who need additional help with assignments.

# Pathway to Academic Success

1. Schedule an appointment online or in-person

2. Connect with Writing Center staff to have your piece of writing reviewed

3. At the beginning of the consultation, specify if there is an element of your writing to focus on during the meeting

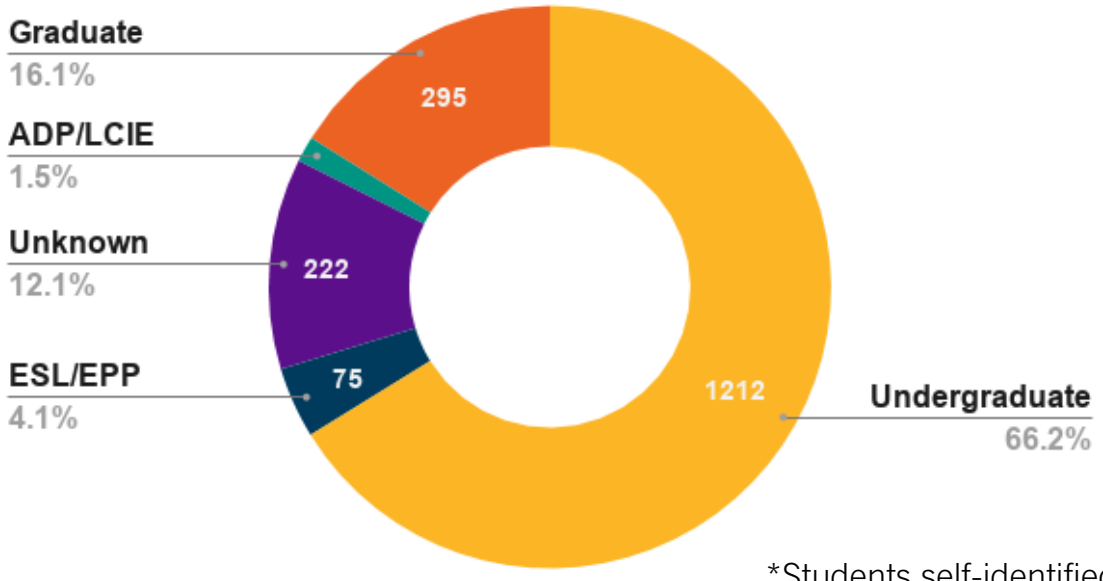
4. Collaborate during the consultation to review the strong points of your work and talk through any elements that need revision

5. Once the consultation is finished, receive a receipt and schedule a follow-up visit if needed

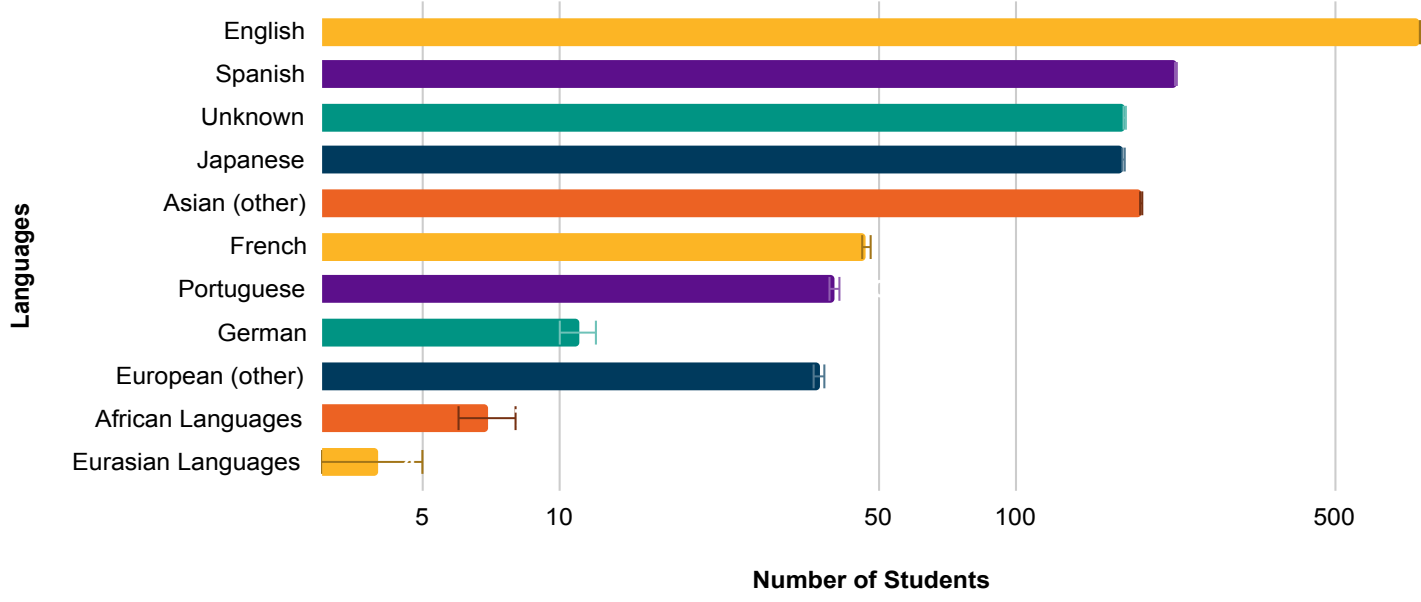
## Steps for Utilizing the Writing Center

# Students Served: August 2018-May 2019

## Types of Students Served



## Student Language Statistics






# What Can I Bring to the Writing Center?

 A draft of a piece of writing

 Online learning responses and reflections

 PowerPoints

 Outlines

 Traditional essays and capstone projects

 Bibliographies (all citation styles accepted)

 Creative writing (poetry and prose)

## Serving Online Students

Online students who are not able to visit the Writing Center in person can seek assistance with their writing assignments via email or by setting up a virtual appointment through WCOonline. They can also schedule a Microsoft Teams video conference with a Writing Specialist if face-to-face interaction is preferred.

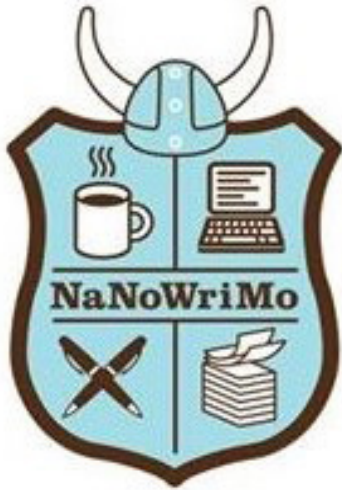
Online consultations  
**233**

Classes with embedded  
Writing Specialists  
**22**

### Embedded Program

The Writing Center supports online students through embedding Writing Specialists in writing-intensive undergraduate and graduate courses. An embedded Writing Specialist has access to assignment descriptions and course expectations through the online learning platform. Throughout the semester, the Writing Specialist is an accessible resource for students. The Writing Specialist is available to answer questions about assignments, help determine a topic, or edit a draft. Along with the professor, the embedded Writing Specialist gives students the guidance they need to complete the course objectives.

## Writing Center Events



### **NanoWriMo**

November is National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). The Writing Center collaborates with the English department to host meetings called 'Write-ins' where anyone from the community can spend time with fellow writers while working on their writing project.

### **Arrow Rock**

The Arrow Rock online literary journal is a student-managed publication. The course is offered through the English department every spring. The curation of the journal teaches students about publishing and marketing concepts and provides them a pathway to publish their poetry, short stories, and media-based art.

The process of creating Arrow Rock is collaborative: a team of student editors, promoters, and organizers work to showcase student work and create the finished online journal. Arrow Rock was awarded the 2019 rank of 'Excellence' in the Art and Literary Magazines Program which is sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).





## The Creative Writing Club

The Writing Center gives the Creative Writing Club a safe space to talk about writing and anything creative. The club has become a fun outlet for all who join. One of the annual projects for the Creative Writing Club is to create a chapbook of scary stories that is given out at the Dark Carnival campus event in October.



## Gateway Writing Center Association (GWCA) Conference

On February 9th, 2019, the Lindenwood Writing Center, in collaboration with the English department, hosted the first regional Gateway Writing Center Association Conference. This networking and collaborative event gave Writing Center professionals in the St. Louis area a chance to present their innovations and network with one another.

## Learn and Grow in the Writing Center

Working in the Writing Center as a student consultant gives young professionals real experience and skills that are transferable to their future careers in many different industries. The Writing Center prepares student consultants for the workforce by teaching them

- Customer service skills
- Patience and compassion
- Collaboration and team building
- Writing and editing techniques

## Where are They Now?

See the success that past Writing Center consultants are having in their careers!

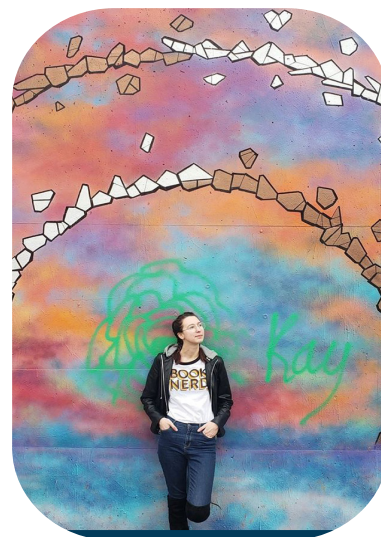
**Tasha Zebrowan (née Zebrowski),  
2012 Graduate, Animal Eye Clinic of Seattle**



A move to Seattle, Washington, caused me to change careers from teaching to working as a licensed veterinary technician, which ended up not being as drastic a difference as one would think. The years I spent in the Writing Center allowed me to practice the skill of patiently explaining new concepts to people who are having a hard time understanding, which I do several times a day with veterinary clients. I also gained a keen eye for typographical errors which ensures that I never sends home any discharge paperwork with embarrassing errors, such as a diagnosis of “conjunctivitis” instead of “conjunctivitis.”



My time at the LU Writing Center was so wonderful. I recently started work as a grant writer for Easterseals Midwest, and I spend a lot of my time going over proposals and fundraising letters with my team. My experience in the Writing Center not only covered editing for grammar, but it also equipped me with the skills to make helpful, constructive criticism when giving feedback. Communicating with the person whose work you are editing, whether that's a coworker or a student, is incredibly important and can be the difference between fixing a few commas or creating a more dynamic final product. I learned that through my time in the Writing Center, and I carry it with me now in my career.



**Rachel Sinclair,**  
**2018 Graduate, Easterseals Midwest**



**Sarah George,**  
**2010 Graduate, CACI Premier Technologies Inc.**

The skills I learned while working at the Writing Center still helps me in my job today! I'm a federal contractor, and the work I do is detail-oriented and thorough; working at the WC helped me develop the necessary skills to type up the professional reports needed to do my job, and do it well.

Working at the Library Writing Center was some of the most valuable time that I invested during my years studying at Lindenwood University. Collaborating with students to improve their writing skills helped me, in turn, to hone my own abilities to compose written communications and to review compositions from my professional colleagues and superiors. One of the first tasks I was given when I started working at my new job was to review and revise a memo from our company's Vice President; my ability to make effective revisions caught the attention of our Senior Leadership. From drafting and negotiating contracts with health care suppliers to delegating clear work instructions to my team to execute, I have never ceased to find uses for the skills I cultivated at the Writing Center.



**Blake Fields,**  
**M.B.A. - 2016 Graduate,**  
**HealthTrust Purchasing Group**



## Strategic Goals for 2020-21

- Increase digital presence to support online students
- Continue to support online courses, especially eight-week classes
- Create more writing workshops and a dissertation bootcamp
- Set-up a digital room for collaborative drop-in appointments

## Inclusion and Retention

**The Writing Center focuses on inclusion and empowerment practices that help increase student retention.**

- All students can share their preferred name and pronouns
- Multiple appointment options to meet all students' needs
- An office with multiple Safe Zone trained staff
- An open-door policy for students who need support
- A focus on individual consultations based on specific needs
- Consideration and care placed on making the Writing Center's space and digital services accessible

“

The Writing Specialist is always very consistent in her corrections and clear in her explanations and feedback.

“

I love how easy and fast it is to make an appointment!

“

I came to the center struggling to make my essay long enough. Now, it's not only long enough, but exceeds the required pages. All mistakes are fixed. Thank you!

“

The embedded Writing Specialist created ease of access to students who otherwise would not take advantage of the services offered by the Writing Center. Being embedded also makes the Writing Specialist more approachable for students.

“

Students had better writing after meeting with the Writing Specialist.

“

The Writing Specialist greatly improved student writing and allowed me to spend less

# Writing Center

(636) 949-4870

writingcenter@lindenwood.edu

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U N I V E R S I T Y

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