

Non-Course Based Writing Program
Grad School Application Essays: How to Write and Help to Do It!
Proposal and Funding Request

Mission Statement

The *Non-Course Based Writing Program* will feature a series of curated workshops and intentional mentoring to support the growth of all students in their quest for a meaningful life, a quest dependent on discovering the reading and writing needs particular to their journey.

Grad School Application Essays: How to Write and Help to Do It! (Pilot Workshop Series)

A select group of faculty from the University Writing Program will guide all students who are searching for future career opportunities requiring advanced degrees by teaching the “hidden” curriculum of professional communication in graduate school applications. “Grad School Application Essays: How to Write and Help to Do It!” provides writing support for any interested student applying to graduate school through a series of workshops and 1:1 faculty mentoring focused on all forms of the application essay.

Tentative Schedule for Fall 2023

In Fall 2023, the UWP can offer the following:

- 3 General Overview Workshops (weeks 2, 4, and 6): 50 minutes each, 2 UWP mentors. Repeated content.
- 3 Writing Labs (weeks 3, 5, and 7): 2 hrs each, 5 UWP mentors. Hands-on writing support is open to all students. No prerequisite attendance is required.
- 1:1 mentoring (scheduled online through the website, tailored to student-mentor schedules). Approx. twenty 50-minute sessions each week.

Promoting equitable and inclusive access, the series is designed for students and their schedules, and can assist students in any stage of the writing process. Workshop support in the fall would target students applying to graduate school between November through February (see Graduate Division’s deadlines). All support can be housed in HMNSS 1001.

- Future iterations might include “push-in” graduate app essay writing workshops and/or mentoring sessions in various ethnic and gender programs, as WAFYA does (Writing Lab, seminars)

Workshop Leaders and Faculty Mentors

We seek 7-10 mentors. Rory Moore and Ray Papica will lead workshops. Possible UWP lecturers include those with extensive workshop and mentoring experience. The following individuals have previous WAC and/or WAFYA experience; several also have specific experience with graduate school applications and/or grant writing.

Kathy Hardun Elizabeth Stela McDonald

Richard Hunt Anne Sullivan

Todd Luce Jerome Winter

Grant Palmer Clare O’Brien (WAC Teaching Fellow)



What We Need:

- A dedicated website linked with the UE and UWP websites, and possibly the ARC and Career Center, where students can obtain information about the workshops, labs, and one-on-one mentoring. The website would also enable students to sign up for the support they need. The Non-Course Based Writing Program would be the site name, with this particular pilot series as a sub-link. UWP can collaborate with Shan Shan Liao on the site's design.
- Funds for outreach. This includes a UWP-designed flyer: printing costs for roughly 20+ 11x17 fliers (with color) and 500+ fliers (black and white copies) for distribution (\$150). Flyers will be posted across campus, given to programs and departments, and promoted online through email and XCITE.
- XCITE support to reach students through Canvas. This would strengthen our collaborative efforts with XCITE.
- Slack workspace for easy communication.
- An undergraduate assistant up to 2 hours per week Weeks 1-7, to total 14 hours.
- Mentor stipends:
 - \$500 stipend request per mentor, for 7 to 10 mentor instructors and for the Mentor
 - 20-hour fall-quarter commitment per instructor: 2 hours of training (Week 1), 1 hour of general overview workshop, 4 hours of writing labs (over 2 labs), 12 hours of scheduled 1:1 mentoring, and 1 hour of administrative setup.
 - Additional Mentor Director stipend of \$500 for facilitation of the training, workshops, and labs.
- Consideration of a course release for the Mentor Director in place of the stipends.

Potential Budget:

Promotional materials (\$150)

Undergraduate assistants (\$190)

Mentor stipends (\$3,500-5000) depending on the number of mentors, 7-10.

Mentor director stipend (\$500).

Total \$4,340-\$5,840.

Metrics and Surveys:

- The UWP will include metrics and basic data points after the workshop and mentoring series concludes. Data will include:
 - # students served; what majors; demographics of students, and
 - # of times interacted with initiative; likely many others;
 - Information will be collected and presented in a brief end-of-year summary. ●

We will, with the assistance of the UE, deploy surveys to determine if the support provided responds to UE's mission statement, goals, and student needs. We will also deploy a follow-up survey to see where students are after a year (i.e. are they in graduate school?). We will reach out to Michael Moses and Cathy Lussier for IRB and survey assistance.

