

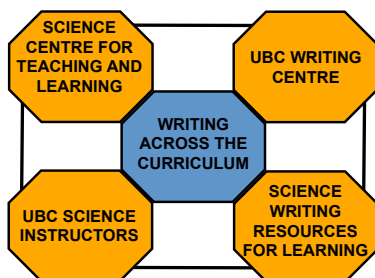
Writing Across the Curriculum Program: Supporting Writing Instruction in Science

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Why a WAC Program?

- Science faculty cite a variety of barriers to incorporating writing assignments into their courses:
 - Time required for marking
 - Ability to provide formative feedback
 - Ability to maximize limited TA resources
- About half of the post-secondary institutions in North America have Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) programs.
- The UBC WAC Program (est. 2015) aims to:
 - Support science educators in teaching and mentoring of science writing
 - Encourage increased use of writing in science courses
 - Create a cross-departmental community of faculty who use writing in science courses

Who Is Involved?



What Does the WAC Program Offer?

Educator Workshops

The WAC Program has developed four educator workshops:



- Writing assignment and assessment design (12 participants)
 - Providing effective feedback on writing assignments (20)
 - Strategies for student success (16)
 - Teaching succinct and accurate science writing (26)
- 61 UBC educators (faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, course coordinators) have participated in these workshops.

One-on-One Consultations

The WAC Program offers consultations to educators (and class visits) to provide guidance and feedback on:



- Writing assignment/assessment design
- Strategies to help students with the writing process
- TA training related to teaching and assessing writing

Community of Practice

The WAC Program hosts a monthly Lunch and Learn where participants, along with invited guest experts, discuss topics including:



- How to motivate students to get help with writing
- Using writing in large classes
- Designing effective student peer review
- Reducing jargon in science writing

Participant Feedback

"Glad to have more resources for myself and to share with students."

[Most valuable aspect] "Gaining insight on various perspectives, coming from multiple faculty from many science departments at UBC."

"Your facilitation of the segment on giving feedback was presented in a manner that TAs could easily relate and your suggestions to our handout on providing feedback has significantly improved it."

Future of the WAC Program

The program is:

- Expanding to the **Communicating Across the Curriculum Program (CxC)** to support oral and multimedia communication.
- Looking for **research collaborations**: evidence-based practices for teaching science writing are lacking.
- Developing **online workshops** and expanding our **website resources** for UBC Science educators.

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Want to Know More?

Website: www.scwrl.ubc.ca/wac

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a place of mind

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