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# UNO Writing Center Program of Excellence Report 2015-16

College of Arts and Sciences, Writing Center  
*University of Nebraska at Omaha*

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## UNO Writing Center Program of Excellence Report 2015–2016

**Title:** Writing Center

**Original Funding:** \$65,500

**Persons Responsible:** Report prepared by G. Travis Adams, Writing Center Director, for David Booker, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Since 2005, the UNO Writing Center has advanced two of UNO’s key strategic goals, supporting students and promoting academic excellence. The Writing Center helps students with a wide range of writing projects and helps faculty integrate effective writing assignments into their courses. In the Fall of 2015, the Center had a staff of twenty-two, including a director, associate director, graduate assistants from the English Department, student workers, graduate consultants, interns, and a volunteer. Without additional funding, meeting demand as the UNO student body grows will be increasingly difficult, if not impossible

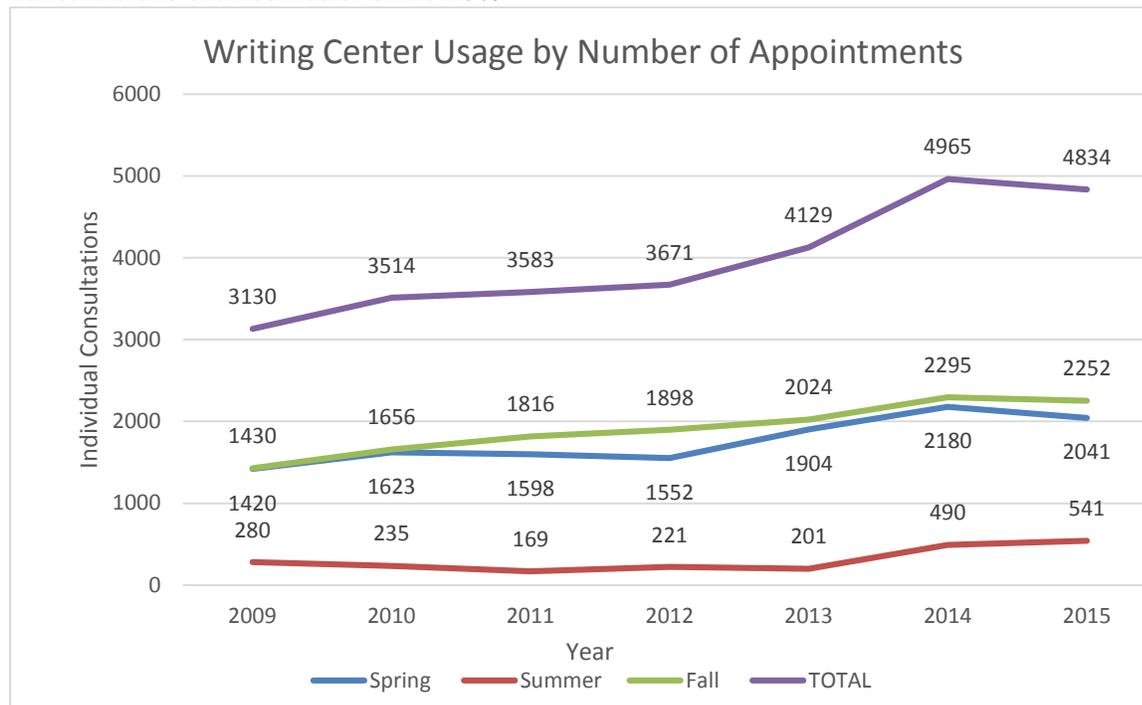
### Budget

Funding sources	
Programs of Excellence	65,500
UNO Graduate Studies	9,000

Reassigned time for the Director and Associate Director comes from the College of Arts & Sciences.

### Services and Programs

The Writing Center operates in three locations. The main center is in Arts & Sciences Hall, with satellites in Mammel Hall and Criss Library. The figure below reports the number of consultations each semester since 2009:



Usage rates reflect the Writing Center's reputation for effectiveness as well as increasing demand. *Note: the numbers for 2015 are complicated by the departures of our Program Manager and 3 consultants, reducing consulting hours by almost 40 hours/week.*

Students are our key constituency; for 2015 82% of our clients were undergraduates, 15% were graduates, and 1% were faculty/staff. Our clients come from all six academic colleges at UNO, and every semester we see a small number of writers from UNMC as well as UNO alumni. Data from 2015 indicates that 45% of our consultations are with non-native speakers of English.

### Assessment of Consultations

For assessment, the Writing Center utilizes an online survey sent automatically to every writer upon using the Writing Center. For 2015, the surveys yielded these results: of 934 respondents, 896 (96%) rated their consultation as "Excellent," "Very good," or "Good." Additionally, 91% of respondents (852) reported that they would return to the Writing Center for a session.

### Additional Support for Student Writers

The Writing Center also offers workshops on topics of interest to student writers. For 2015, the UNO Writing Center offered over 28 workshops, attended by nearly 300 students. Workshop topics included: MLA/APA/Chicago Citation, Thesis/Dissertation Strategies, Conference Papers/Proposals, Literature Reviews, ESL Q&A, Peer Response, Approaching Big Projects, and Writing from Research, to name a few.

### Support for Faculty

The Center organizes events for faculty in their roles as teachers and as writers.

- **Camp Completion:** a week-long writing retreat for faculty held in May, during the first week of the summer term. Fourteen UNO faculty members attended the 2015 Camp Completion.
- **WAC Seminar:** In 2015 the January WAC Seminar—a two-day retreat focused on supporting faculty teaching writing across the curriculum—was held. Ten UNO faculty members attended the seminar, collectively spending 120 hours focusing on the teaching of writing.

### **Accomplishments**

- ***Undergraduate Peer Consultants:*** We continued to recruit, hire, train, and support undergraduate consultants. Undergraduate consultants allow us to work with more writers while creating a significant learning and work experience for undergraduates at UNO. Peer consultants align our center with writing center theory/pedagogy.
- ***Expanded Summer Schedule:*** The success of our expanded summer schedule was again realized in the summer of 2015 and is reflected by the 541 sessions held—exceeding any previous summer.
- ***Distance Consulting:*** To support writers enrolled in hybrid/distance courses, we moved from a successful pilot program to distance consulting as a part of our standard services.
- ***WAC Travel Grant:*** The WAC Travel Grant program awarded 5 grants (one faculty, four graduate student) in Spring 2015, for a total of \$2,000.
- ***Website:*** 2015 saw a major overhaul of our website as we worked with Kurt Frederick, Communications Specialist in the College of Arts & Sciences, to design and deploy a website that is significantly different in design and scope.

- **Advertising/Marketing:** We replaced our outdated showcase in the main hallway of ASH with a monitor and RiseVision software. This gives us more flexibility in marketing Writing Center services. We also purchased a range of UNO branded materials for use at events.
- **Internship program:** The expanded student internship program in the Writing Center serves two purposes. First, the Writing Center and its clients benefit from the skills and talents of the interns. Second, internships provides valuable experience to the student interns that they might not otherwise get in classroom instruction.
- **Resource Library:** Successful budgetary planning has allowed us to purchase current writing center and writing pedagogy related scholarship. These materials (books, journals, handbooks, etc.) are resources for use during sessions and for research projects.
- **Task-force Model:** The entire staff participates in task forces to accomplish projects and tasks that are identified by the staff with guidance from the Director and the Associate Director.
- **Graduate Studies Partnership:** The Writing Center's previously established liaison with Graduate Studies has expanded and deepened. The current partnership includes 2 Graduate Consultants on staff for 30 total hours per week fall/spring, 10 hours per week summer, and regular workshops for graduate students.
- **Conference Presence:** The UNO Writing Center's participation in academic conferences is a priority. In 2015, three consultants, Associate Director Kathy Radosta, and Director Travis Adams gave panel presentations at the 2015 International Writing Centers Association conference in Pittsburgh, PA. Additionally, in November, the Director, one consultant and one former consultant gave a panel presentation and a workshop on the National Conference on Peer Tutors in Writing in Salt Lake City, UT. In addition, we hosted the Nebraska Writing Center Consortium, our state-level conference, in 2015.

### Goals for 2016

- Continuing excellence in consultations and programming.
- Developing robust support structures for multilingual writers, including workshops and/or mini-courses.
- Continuing our collaboration with Graduate Studies to increase graduate student use of the Writing Center and participation in workshops.
- Exploring additional and permanent sources of funding to support growing demand.
- Refining and developing services for students taking hybrid or online courses. This will involve updating technology, developing consultant training, developing instructional materials for students, advertising, and researching theory/pedagogy behind online consultations.
- Working with Graduate Studies, the Center for Faculty Excellence, the college deans, and the WID Advisory Committee to define the mission and scope of in the UNO WID Program.
- Working with the English Department, Dean of Arts & Sciences, and other campus partners to reconfiguring the Associate Director and Program Coordinator positions.
- Running a pilot satellite location at UNMC, evaluating the pilot, and developing a long-term plan for collaboration with UNMC.
- Supporting consultants applying to and attending the 2016 IWCA, NCPTW, and NWCC.