

Graduate Student Virtual Writing Lab

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Graduate Student Virtual Writing Lab
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CHATBOT, BARD, GRAMMARLY, AI TEXT CONTENT PROGRAMS

Chatbots, Bard, Grammarly, and other AI content programs are tools that can potentially be used to a writer's benefit; however, it is the writer's responsibility to know the benefits and limitations of each. Ultimately, these tools are susceptible to human error in their use and programming, and the writer will need to guide them, not the other way around. These tools can be used ethically if they contribute to a writer's overall productivity. If the employment of Chatbots, AI, Bard, and Grammarly is a means to circumvent process and work, then it is in ethical conflict with the Writing Lab, the School of Nursing, and the University of Texas-San Antonio.

Mission Statement

The UT Health San Antonio School of Nursing Writing Lab is a pedagogical writing lab that supports nursing graduate students in all facets of their writing process. We foster the growth of strong academic writing skills and facilitate writers' confidence and independence through one-on-one appointments with writing coaches who use an inquiry-driven approach that empowers students to take the lead. We cultivate a community of writing through group events such as writing retreats, workshops, and boot camps that focus on demystifying the writing process.

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OTHER APPLICABLE POLICIES

Students' Right To Their Own Language (Conference On College Composition And Communication)

We Affirm The Students' Right To Their Own Patterns And Varieties Of Language -- The Dialects Of Their Nurture Or Whatever Dialects In Which They Find Their Own Identity And Style. Language Scholars Long Ago Denied That The Myth Of A Standard American Dialect Has Any Validity. The Claim That Any One Dialect Is Unacceptable Amounts To An Attempt Of One Social Group To Exert Its Dominance Over Another. Such A Claim Leads To False Advice For Speakers And Writers, And Immoral Advice For Humans. A Nation Proud Of Its Diverse Heritage And Its Cultural And Racial Variety Will Preserve Its Heritage Of Dialects. We Affirm Strongly That Teachers Must Have The Experiences And Training That Will Enable Them To Respect Diversity And Uphold The Right Of Students To Their Own Language.

Academic Dishonesty Policy (UTHSCSA)
FERPA Confidentiality (U.S. Department Of Education)
Title IX (UTHSCSA Title IX Office)

THROUGH OUR COMMITMENT TO WRITING, WE AIM TO:

- 1 Increase the number of journal articles published by students
- 2 Increase the number of dissertations completed by students
- 3 Improve retention and matriculation by ensuring that students can meet the standard for writing at the graduate level
- 4 Build a student-to-faculty pipeline by modeling excellent writing instruction and a love for teaching
- 5 Encourage new faculty to learn about composition and the teaching of writing

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AT THE WRITING LAB, WE BELIEVE WRITING IS

A form of critical thinking
A problem-solving tool
A skill that is learned over time
A means to strengthen communication
Crucial to research
Collaborative
How we grow
How we offer our voices to the academic community
Hard work and takes practice over time
About process, not product

How We Do It: We collaborate! You set the tone of the appointment and the coach facilitates requests and adjusts to the writer's needs.

What We Do Not Do: We are not an editing service, nor do we read your paper passively. A coaching session is an active enterprise, meaning, the writer is just as engaged in the process as the coach. Together, we work through issues in writing with inquiry and curiosity. Got questions about grammar? We can help you find the answers! That way, grammar becomes a skill you learn, a tool in your toolkit. We are an instructional lab, so our goal is to teach you how to do these things.



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VISION STATEMENT



FAQ'S

Q: Will you fix my paper?

A: We will collaboratively identify areas of the writing piece or process to improve upon, then we will make suggestions or instructions on how. Only you have the authority to change your writing.

Q: What do you do to prepare?

A: Have your paper ready, be in a space where you can actually work on your paper (i.e. not driving, not eating lunch). You need to be in the position to collaborate, as the Writing Lab relies on collaboration between coaches and writers.

Q: Are we an editing service?

A: We are not an editing service; however, we can help you with your editing process.

Q: What can you share with my professor?

A: We can only share general knowledge about the assignment that the professor would see anyway, but anything that does not pertain to the assignment will not be shared.

Q: How far in advance should I book an appointment?

A: We find that booking an appointment 2 weeks before an assignment's due date generally gives students enough time to take in feedback and make necessary changes.



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OUR SERVICES

At the UT Health San Antonio School of Nursing Writing Lab, we offer a variety of services to help strengthen your relationship to writing:

Coaching Sessions: Virtual appointments that pair a nursing student with a seasoned writing coach for up to one hour of dedicated, one-on-one time.

Retreats: Foundational writing process-level events that take place over multiple days. They are not project specific, but skill-based, and these skills can be used in future projects.

Workshops: Focused on a single writing process.

Boot camps: Project-focused and often include directed writing.



The UT Health San Antonio School of Nursing Writing Lab is a **fully remote student service**. Writers are able to book an appointment with coaches at a time that's most convenient for them, in a place where they are most comfortable. We recognize that DNP and PhD nursing students have full lives and wanted to create a Writing Lab that responded to those needs. As a result, our lab uniquely offers extended hours of service, including nights and weekends. The virtual operations also removes on-site management, so more resources are spent on students.



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OUR POLICIES

Communication & Scheduling: Writers are required to provide a copy of their work and all applicable rubrics, prompts, and/or submission guidelines so the coach may complete an individualized plan for you. Writers must attach these documents and send them within at least 24 hours of their scheduled appointment time.

Writers who do not attach and send necessary documents appropriately may be asked to surrender their appointment time. For tips on how to communicate effectively with your coach, please visit our guide on how to schedule a Starfish appointment.

Single Booking: Writers are allowed to book one (1) writing coaching session per week. This is to allow more writers to use the limited availability of our tutors. Writers who sign up for more than one appointment in a week may be asked to surrender one of their appointment times.

Drop-in Appointments: Virtual drop-ins are available during coaches' office hours; however, these drop-ins are limited to 15 minutes only. If writers need more than 15 minutes, they will need to book a coaching session.

Cancellations: Writers who schedule appointments must give the tutor ample notice of cancellation. Appointments should be canceled with at least 24-hour notice. If an appointment is canceled with less than 24-hour notice, the appointment will be marked as "no-show" and Writers will be unable to reschedule for that week.

Repetitive No-Shows: Our peer tutors' time is very limited and important; therefore, it's imperative that writers sign up for appointments they absolutely need and can attend. Writers who receive two no-shows will be unable to sign up for tutoring sessions for the remainder of the semester.

A no-show is noted on an appointment if (1) a writer fails to cancel the appointment with at least a 24-hour advance, (2) a writer misses a scheduled appointment with no notice of cancellation, or (3) a writer is late by 20 minutes or more for a one-hour session.

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How to Book an Appointment

Coaching sessions are created and confirmed through the Starfish application via Canvas or through the iPad located at the Student Success Center's administration desk, room 118 in the School of Nursing.

Where Are We Located: While our coaching sessions are remote, the Writing Lab is housed in the Student Success Suite, so we are part of a network of services such as Student Success Coaching, Student Clubs and Associations, and support that we can direct you to for needs in addition to writing.

What Does It Cost: Nothing! The service is completely free due to a grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in the summer and through your student services fees throughout the 2023-24 academic year, so take advantage of your Student Services.

The UT Health San Antonio School of Nursing Writing Lab was initially founded as a pilot program through a partnership with Our Lady of the Lake University's Writing Center. The UTHSCSA Writing Lab will continue in the Fall of 2023-2024, funded by student fees.

Who Can Use Our Services: Ph.D. in Nursing Science, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), and Post-Graduate Certificate nursing students.

Have More Questions? Please contact the Student Success Center at SONStudentSuccess@uthscsa.edu to learn more.

STUDENT TESTIMONIES

"I appreciated learning about writing strategies that I will surely implement in my future writing endeavors."

"I learned different writing strategies (cubing, listing, questioning). I also enjoyed the different activities, as they made me feel more confident about my writing abilities and shared struggles with other peers."

"I gained a lot of tools to use in my writing! I plan to attend the coaching sessions in the future."

"I gained confidence in my writing abilities, new approaches to help with the writing process, and overall just a good time."

"I learned several strategies for writing. I really like the strategy where I can almost close my laptop and free write. That helps me get my thoughts out and be prepared to write."

"I learned a variety of writing techniques that will benefit me on my future projects."

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