

FUNDING CALL FOR PROPOSALS

THE WRITING IN MAJORS PROJECT-WIMP

The University Writing Program invites up to five departments to participate in a study of student writing within their own majors. Two expert consultants/researchers from the University Writing Program will lead small project teams. We've conducted previous versions of this project with other DU departments, including Chemistry, Economics, History, Media, Film, and Journalism Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, and Religious Studies, and we welcome the opportunity to repeat earlier studies.

Goal

The goal is to conduct action research, producing descriptions of student writing opportunities, features, and practices that might inform curricular and pedagogical conversations in specific majors. This is "quick-and-dirty" (yet solidly grounded) research, resulting in a 10-15 page report completed in December, intended for members of the department itself. At the department's invitation, the Writing Program will provide follow-up consultations or workshops, make recommendations, co-author articles, etc.

Project Teams

Doug Hesse, Executive Director of Writing Program, will coordinate project teams consisting of

- ❏ Two faculty from each participating department, who will receive honoraria of \$750. At least one of the participating faculty members should be tenured. (We estimate 10-20 hours of their time.)
- ❏ Two expert consultants: Writing Program faculty who will help gather data and draft the final report.
- ❏ Two students majoring in the department (preferably undergraduates but graduate students are fine). (\$15/hour.)

Possible Research Questions (Department or project team will determine foci.)

- ❏ How much writing do students in major X do?
- ❏ What types of writing do X majors do?
- ❏ What are the features of student writing in X? What is the quality?
- ❏ What do faculty make of X student writing?
- ❏ What do X students make of their own writing or of their writing experiences?
- ❏ What instruction, resources, guidance, etc. do students receive? What are unmet needs?

Possible Data to be Gathered (Project team will determine which meet their needs.)

- ❏ Faculty or student questionnaires
- ❏ Course syllabi or writing assignments
- ❏ Interviews with faculty and/or students
- ❏ Samples of student writing
- ❏ Interviews with recent graduates

Timeline

August 2013: Invitations sent to chairs and directors
September 13: Proposals due. Selections made by September 17
By September 25: Student team members chosen and project teams have first meeting
October and November: Data gathering and analysis
December: Report drafting
January: Discussion of finding with faculty (Writing Program could host a lunch)

To Apply

Chairs should send an email to Doug Hesse indicating their department's interest and including the names of two faculty. Diversity of disciplinary types will be a selection criterion if there's more interest than resources.

To apply or get more information, please contact
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