

Meeting of the Minds: Collaboration Between WID Interns and Learning Center Tutors

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The Need

- The AUM WAC Program was established in Fall 2009 as the University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for SACSCOC Accreditation.
- In addition to the 2-course freshman composition series, all students are required to take 3 content-area writing intensive courses prior to graduation.
- Because of the influx of WI content-area courses, the Writing in the Disciplines (WID) Internship program was created to ease the demand and workload of Learning Center (LC) Writing Tutors.

Dilemmas and Considerations

- How can administration collaborate when the Learning Center is housed in Student Affairs and the Writing in the Discipline interns/WAC program are housed in Academic Affairs?
- How can competition be minimized between the two programs?
- How can the newly created WID interns learn from the veteran LC tutors?
- How can the WAC administration help faculty understand the unique benefits of each method of academic support?
- **Objective:** Deliberately embed collaboration between the Learning Center and the WAC program at the embryonic stages of WID internship program development.

WID Interns vs. LC Tutors: What are the Differences?

	WID Interns	LC Tutors
Who manages and houses?	The Writing Across the Curriculum Program staff.	The Learning Center program staff.
What is the conceptual framework for the program?	Theory about writing fellows combined with supplemental instruction	Pedagogy of tutoring and writing center theory
Relationship to Students?	Undergraduate Peers who have successfully completed a content-area WI course	A mix of graduate students, UG students, and professionals
What courses can they support?	Only designated WI content-area courses	All courses, all subjects, and all levels of expertise
What are the areas of emphasis in learning?	Writing, with an understanding of content knowledge and writing expectations in that discipline	Foundations of writing, including higher and lower order concerns of writing in all subjects
Who initiates student support opportunities?	The WID intern communicates regularly with students in designated courses.	The student seeking support or assistance contacts the Learning Center to schedule tutoring session(s).

Collaboration During WID Intern Selection

- WID intern candidates are nominated by WI content-area faculty.
- Because programs are unique in emphasis, if a WID intern nominee has already served as an LC tutor, they have the option to choose the program in which they would like to work.
- The LC Director and members of the WAC staff (Director and Senior Program Associate) screen applications, writing samples, and serve as the interview panel for the WID internship program.

Collaboration During WID Intern Training: Recognizing Experts in Tutoring Pedagogy

- The LC Director presents a session on the support and resources available to WID interns provided through the center.
- The LC tutors present mock tutorial sessions and problem-solving scenarios during WID intern training.
- The WID interns must observe two hours (4 sessions) of LC tutoring in their first semester of the WID internship program.



Collaboration During Writing-Intensive Training for Content-Area Faculty

Learning Center

- The LC Director provides an overview of services during the initial faculty training sessions, prior to writing-intensive instruction.
- The LC tutors provide an actual tutorial session during initial faculty training, to support understanding of individual conferencing skills.

WID Interns

- WID interns are introduced to designated faculty in an orientation Q&A session at ongoing training sessions in the beginning of the first semester of WI instruction.
- WID interns communicate regularly with designated faculty throughout entire semester of WI instruction.

Collaboration with Resources

- **Finances:** The Learning Center tutors are paid through the WAC program for their involvement in the WID intern and writing-intensive faculty training sessions; when possible, due to lower number of WID interns, the WAC program supports the pay of additional Learning Center tutors.
- **Space:** The Learning Center provides tutoring desks and study space in the Learning Center, housed in the library, when the WID interns need a quiet one-on-one tutoring location with students in their designated courses.
- **Human:** The directors of the Learning Center and the WAC program collaborate together on committees (i.e., program-specific search committees, WAC committee, and related ad hoc committees), training, and research.

Final Thoughts

***If you have knowledge,
let others light their candles at it.***

(Margaret Fuller)

The WID Internship program was designed using the knowledge and light of the Learning Center tutors as the centerpiece for growth and development of the WID interns.



Questions? Contact . . .

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