

That Was Then, This Is Now:
*WAC and Writing Centers in
Pharmacy Education*

By

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Then: 1998

- *Writing Centers and Writing Across the Curriculum Programs: Building Interdisciplinary Partnerships* was published.
- It included “Writing Centers/WAC in Pharmacy Education: A Changing Prescription” by Neal Lerner, then of Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, and Eric Hobson, then of St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

This was important because--

- This was a very optimistic look at the importance of writing and writing centers in pharmacy.
- Nominated for IWCA Article of the year.
- Set public perceptions, both within the writing community and the pharmacy community.

Writing Center's role

- Central role in monitoring the status of the WAC program.
- Provide writing support to WE faculty
- Manage a writing awards program. that includes awards to essays written in WE courses.

Writing Emphasis requirements

Students are required to take two Writing Emphasis (WE) courses.

- One is normally a General WE elective.
- One must be a Professional WE elective.
 - Course “must address at least one college Professional outcome.”

Professional Outcomes

- Pharmaceutical Care
- Systems Management
- Public Health

1998

Professional electives

Topics in Therapeutics: Primary Care

Geriatrics/Neurology/Psychiatry

Introduction to Pharmacy Entrepreneurship

Current Topics in Infectious Disease

Topics in Pharmaceutical Care: Community Service

Scientific Literature Evaluation

Geriatric Pharmacy

Introductory Clinical Clerkship

Leadership: Coaching and Counseling

Biomedical Ethics

1998

General Electives

International Politics

Science and the Media

History of the Cold War

Psychology of Personality

Abnormal Psychology

Shakespeare

Social Psychology

World Religions

Culture Studies: Japan

Basic Problems in Philosophy

Flash forward . . .

Radical change!

- Pharmacy education has moved away from technical education and training to patient counseling, research, and evidence-based patient care.
- Number of pharmacy schools has exploded:
 - in 1993, 80 schools.
 - in 2012, 127 schools.

Accreditation standards

- Concerned about this explosion, the American Council of Pharmacy Education [ACPE] has enacted much stricter standards.
- Requirements for coursework, for bench research, and for faculty qualifications have risen dramatically.
- Ongoing curricular change is a nightmare.

At STLCOP

- Administrative support for WE courses flagged in Pharmacy Practice division over time.
- Faculty were pulled out of WE courses to support required courses with bigger enrollments.
- Responsibility for teaching WE courses shifted to the Liberal Arts and Basic Sciences.

2009

General electives

Shakespeare

The Art of Film

World Religions

International Relations/World
Politics

Psychology of Personality

Abnormal Psychology

History of Medicine and Pharmacy

History of Mental Illness

Studies in Social Psychology

Personal Financial Management

Mind, Media, and Culture

2009

Professional Electives

Biomedical Ethics

Topics in Pharmaceutical Care: Community Service

Nutrition for Pharmacists

Intercultural Communication in Health Care

Current Topics in Infectious Disease

Selected Topics in Pathophysiology

Leadership in Healthcare Organizations

Writing for Health

Advanced Health Communication

Doing Research in Public Health

Concerns emerged . . .

- How can we have a Professional elective requirement when only one of the offerings is directly based in pharmacy?
- Many faculty, especially Pharmacy Practice faculty, questioned the desirability of maintaining a WAC program, given the difficulties of maintaining it.

Three catalysts to change

1. Provisional reaccreditation in 2008. This triggered a massive curricular redesign.
2. Too few Professional WE courses to serve increased enrollment.
3. Report on the status of writing at STLCOP expressing concern about students' lack of training in writing for a professional audience.

2012

General electives

Mind, Media, and Culture

The Art of Film

Shakespeare

World Religions

International Relations/World Politics

Psychology of Personality

Abnormal Psychology

History of Medicine and Pharmacy

Studies in Social Psychology

Personal Financial Management

Social Foundations of Religion

The Fate of Our Planet: Man's Impact on Earth

The Science in Science Fiction

Extreme Physiology

2012

Professional Electives, Part I

Advanced Health Communication

Topics in Pharmaceutical Care: Community Service

Topics in Pharmaceutical Care: International Service Learning

Nutrition for Pharmacists

The Global Pharmacist

Intercultural Communication in Health Care

Writing for Health

Current Topics in Infectious Disease

Selected Topics in Pathophysiology

Doing Research in Public Health

2012

Professional Electives, Part II

Public Health Research: Perspective in Pharmacy

Care for the Homeless

Introduction to Drug Development

Advanced Leadership

Epidemiology and Public Health

Drug Addiction Education and Counseling

Illness, Identity and Inequality in History of US
Healthcare and Pharmacy

Pediatric Pharmacotherapy

Introduction to Pharmacy Entrepreneurship

Leadership in Healthcare Organizations

Pharmacogenomics

It ain't over till it's over.

- The good news is this infusion of fresh talent and new ideas has revitalized the WE curriculum.
- The bad news is learning to write for a professional audience demands a bona fide Writing in the Disciplines [WID] objective. STLCOP's requirement still specifies "writing to learn" as the objective for all WE courses.