

Call for applicants: 2021-2022 UW Cross-Discipline Academic Writing Fellows

TO: University of Wyoming faculty and scholars

FROM: Office of Academic Affairs and the UW Communication Across the Curriculum Program

Applications due by 5:00 pm on Friday, August 27, 2021.

Eligible UW faculty and scholars are invited to apply to participate in a year-long fellows program, designed to improve and increase participants' scholarly productivity and publication. For 2021-2022, eligibility is open to *any* member of the UW community who seeks to increase their scholarly writing productivity in a supported, community-based environment.

RATIONALE AND HISTORY

A central goal of the UW Cross-Discipline Academic Writing Fellows (UWAWF) Initiative is to foster and promote a culture of academic writing across UW's campus community. The program seeks to support UW scholars who wish to establish a regular habit of producing high-quality academic writing. We hope, too, that this initiative will serve as an additional means to foster interdisciplinary collegiality at UW.

This initiative is based substantially on a program that began in the UW College of Education in 2017 with support of the dean's office and the college's Wyoming Excellence Endowed Chairs. Based on continuing evidence of its positive impacts, that program is now entering its fifth year. The UWAWF Initiative makes this model more broadly available to the UW campus.

UWAWF PROGRAM TEAM

Coordinators: Rick Fisher (Director, Communication across the Curriculum)

April French (Senior Academic Advising Professional, College of Health Sciences)

Mentors: TBD in consultation with selected Fellows

Advisory team: Cindy Brock (Wyoming Excellence Chair, Literacy Education)

Kate Welsh (Associate Dean, UW College of Education)

PLAN COMPONENTS

Year Two (2021-2022) of the UWAWF program seeks to create a strong community of scholars, with varying levels of publication knowledge and expertise, who want to build their habits and techniques for producing high-quality, impactful scholarly writing. Based on practices among other institutions¹ and on research of scholarly writing identity and development, the program will fund and facilitate these required activities:

1. **An informational meeting about the program** (tentatively: **Tuesday, September 7, 2021, from 3-4:30 pm**). This meeting will allow the group to get to know one another, begin forming writing groups, and seek clarification about the program goals and requirements.
2. **Weekly writing groups.** Participants will form writing groups and attend and track weekly writing meetings. (We will provide examples/ideas at the informational meeting.)
3. **A common book about writing** (tentatively *Stylish Academic Writing*) to be read in advance of the fall retreat.



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¹ See, e.g., Geller & Eodice, 2013, *Working with Faculty Writers*

4. **Two 1.5-day writing retreats**, tentatively scheduled for **September 24-25, 2021**, from 3pm Friday to 5pm Saturday; and **January 7-8, 2022**, from 9am Friday to 3pm Saturday. If possible both retreats will be held face-to-face, and the program will cover costs of food (and lodging if held outside Laramie). Participants are expected to participate fully in each retreat.
5. **Meetings with a local mentor** (at least once per semester). Past program feedback suggests that local mentors serve as valuable informants about a variety of issues, not just about writing.
6. **Informational interview of a successful writer in the participant's field of study**. By fostering engagement with scholars within participants' fields of study, the program not only expands their circles of engagement but also creates opportunities for participants to gain field-specific advice that on-campus program elements may not be able to provide. Evidence of this outreach must be submitted by the end of **December 2021**.

In addition to these required elements, you may be invited to attend other optional events (e.g., mid-point check-ins, related campus workshops, end-of-program celebration).

FINAL DELIVERABLES* (due June 30, 2022)

1. Submit one top-tier research-based article in a top journal in your field. (You must provide evidence from the journal that you have submitted the article.)
2. Submit a second scholarly piece (e.g., research article, a practitioner-based article, a book proposal to a reputable publisher, a grant, or another writing project pre-approved by the program coordinators). (You must provide evidence that you have submitted this piece for review/publication.)
3. Submit a final individual report (with evidence of submission or the deliverables) to the program coordinators. The UW Academic Writing Fellows coordinators will compile the results and submit a synthesized report to the Provost for Academic Affairs by July 15, 2022.

*The *types* of deliverables listed here are based on standards in the fields of education but are open to negotiation. Participants will be asked to solidify their project types and goals by **October 1, 2021**.

A NOTE ABOUT COVID-19

Safety and well-being of participants is a top priority. Though we hope that the 2021-2022 program can be conducted in face-to-face settings, we will adjust program components, timelines, and other aspects as necessary to adhere to best scientific guidance and in response to local trends. Most program features can be easily adapted, and we will develop program revisions as necessary.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

As noted above, "eligibility" means *any* member of the UW community who seeks to increase their scholarly writing productivity in a supported, community-based environment. Selection of participants will be based on (a) a demonstrated desire to improve the quality, scope, and/or type of publication for their scholarly work, (b) a demonstrated track-record for following through on professional commitments, (c) submission of a brief writing plan, including possible publishing venues. Preference will be given to applicants who identify possible connections between their participation in this program and their ideas and approaches to supporting UW students as academic writers.

Application Process/Requirements

Please note the following information and deadlines for the selection process:

- Applications must be submitted as a single PDF file containing all materials.
- Applications must be emailed to Rick Fisher (rick.fisher@uwyo.edu) by 5:00 pm on **August 27, 2021**.
- Applications will be evaluated by UWAWF coordinators.
- UWAWF coordinators will announce fellowship awardees by **September 2, 2021**.

The application document must include the following:

1. A completed Writing Fellow cover sheet. (See Appendix A.)
2. A one-page application narrative, which includes:
 - a. Evidence of applicant's interest in the Academic Writing Fellows program as well as evidence of the applicant's ability to follow through on professional development activity comparable to this program.
 - b. A writing concept plan (perhaps as a table) that includes a description of the scholarly writing projects the applicant plans to undertake including the data she/he will draw on for her/his research piece, and proposed target journals/publication outlets. (Because rejections are common—especially in top tier journals, applicants may want to list 2-3 venues for each planned article, book proposal, or other submission.)
 - c. A list of two to three possible scholars from the applicant's field of study that the participant would be interested in interviewing in Fall 2022. The applicant must provide a rationale to explain why she/he is interested in contacting each of these scholars.
3. A brief two-page CV.

APPENDIX A
Application Cover: UW Academic Writing Fellows Initiative

Name (printed)

Signature (electronic signature accepted)

Department

Date

In submitting this application, I am agreeing to complete the following program activities during the period of August 2021 through June 2022:

1. By the end of the year, I will provide evidence that I have submitted one top-tier *research-based* article in a top journal in my field (or another major research project pre-approved by the program coordinators).
2. By the end of the year, I will submit a second scholarly piece (e.g., research article, a practitioner-based article, a book proposal to a reputable publisher, a grant, or another writing project pre-approved by the program coordinators).
3. I will participate in an introductory 1.5-hour meeting in September 2021.
4. I will participate fully in both writing retreats (in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022).
5. I will work consistently in a small writing group with other UW Academic Writing Fellows. We will collaboratively develop norms and expectations for the group. Someone in the group will keep and submit records outlining our ongoing writing group meetings and each group member's participation.
6. I will conduct an informational interview with a scholar in my field of study and submit a summary of that interview by the end of December 2021.
7. By June 30, 2022, I will submit to Rick Fisher (rick.fisher@uwyo.edu) a final individual report with evidence that I have completed and submitted the required written work. These individual reports will be compiled and submitted to the provost's office by July 15, 2022.

I have included the following in my application packet, **as a single PDF or DOC document**:

1. This completed Writing Fellow cover sheet.
2. A one-page application narrative, which includes:
 - a. Evidence of applicant's interest in the UW Academic Writing Fellows program as well as evidence of the applicant's ability to follow through on professional development activity comparable to this program.
 - b. A writing concept plan (perhaps as a table) that includes a description of the writing projects the applicant plans to undertake including the data she/he will draw on for her/his research and the rationale for proposed target journals/publication outlets. (Because rejections are common—especially in top tier journals, applicants should list 2-3 potential journals or venues for each planned article, &/or book proposal, submission.)
 - c. A list of two to three possible scholars from the applicant's field of study that the participant would be interested in interviewing in Fall 2021. The applicant must provide a rationale for why she/he is interested in contacting each of these scholars.
3. A brief two-page CV