Graduate Services

The Writing Center is an academic center supported by the Department of English and the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences for students to come to work on their writing. Students must be enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh in order to register for an appointment. Our faculty and undergraduate peer tutors have been trained to help others with their writing.

We offer one-on-one tutoring for graduate students, as well as Dissertation Boot Camp and Writing Days.

When the Writing Center Is Closed

The Writing Center is always closed during the following times of the year: Fall Break; finals week; between terms; Spring break; July 4th; Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Thanksgiving week.

Making an Appointment

You can make an appointment by visiting our online scheduler and selecting either the OSC or Hillman schedule for the current term. Appointments are 25 minutes long, starting on the half hour. Students may make two appointments per week. Using multiple identities to book additional time is a violation of academic integrity.

You can also drop in during our operating hours at OSC or Hillman. If a consultant is available, you’ll be seen right away. Appointments are 25 minutes long, starting on the half-hour. You may not have more than one appointment a day, whether you book it in advance or drop in.

How to Prepare for a Tutorial Session

The best preparation is to consider what you want to get out of your time at the Writing Center. You may have a long document, such as a chapter, that we will not be able to go over line by line. Since we will have limited time together, what are your priorities? Read over your document thoughtfully. What questions do you have?

Proofread your writing so that the consultant knows that any errors that are left are those that you might need to talk about in the session.

If your project is more than four or five pages, please identify the pages you want to focus on in this session. You can mark these sections in the margins, for example.

Books and Software for Dissertation Writers
We have identified some books, software, and websites that have been useful to writers of dissertations. This page offers you a brief introduction. But don't read books about writing your dissertation instead of writing your dissertation!

**Books**

*How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing* by Paul A. Silvia

*Finish Your Dissertation Once and For All: How to Overcome Psychological Barriers, Get Results, and Move on with Your Life* by Alison B. Miller

*Writing the Successful Thesis and Dissertation: Entering the Conversation* by Irene L. Clark, Alfredo Mendoza, Chakarat Skawratananond, and Artis Walker

*The 7 Secrets of the Prolific: The Definitive Guide to Overcoming Procrastination, Perfectionism, and Writer's Block* by Hillary Rettig

*Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day: A Guide to Starting, Revising, and Finishing Your Doctoral Thesis* by Joan Bolker

*The Clockwork Muse: A Practical Guide to Writing Theses, Dissertations, and Books* by Eviatar Zerubavel

We think that *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace* by Joseph Williams (and Joseph Bizup) helps writers understand what on the page makes writing easy or hard to read. We highly recommend it for any writer.

**Citation, Note-Taking, and Content-Generation Software**

Pitt makes Endnote available to you. This software allows you to create a library of sources that you can then cite in your writing. It will automatically format citations and bibliographies in the style that you choose. Mendeley is free software that works in similar way and may be a better fit for you, depending on how collaborative you are as a researcher. The University Library System offers regular instruction for both Endnote and Mendeley. You can read more about both at the ULS site.

*Evernote* allows you to organize your own notes, files of many kinds, and Internet finds. You can add it to your browser to easily save pages or clippings. Apps allow you to synch your notes across platforms or to annotate files, organize contacts, and more.

*Scrivener* is a content-generation tool for long documents. It helps you organize and develop your content and it keeps track of your research. It allows you to look at your work in many different ways and even manages drafts.

*Xmind* is free open source software that allows you to do detailed and sophisticated mind mapping. (A professional version is available to buy.) Some writers find that mind mapping allows them to articulate their ideas, draw connections in productive ways, and plan work.

**Productivity Software and Websites**
Have you ever wished you could just turn off the Internet so that you can work without distraction for a while? *Freedom* allows you to do that. You specify the number of minutes that Freedom should block your access to the Internet (and email!). This low-cost software is available for Mac and Windows.

If you are a Mac user, *Self Control* can allow you to block your own access to any distracting aspects of the Internet while still allowing you to do online research.

*Rescue Time* will not only block sites, but it will also analyze your computer use and tell you how much time you spend, for example, writing and how much on surfing, Facebook, or email. By helping you better understand how you use your time, Rescue Time can help you make better choices.

The *Pomodoro Technique* relies on using segments of timed writing (using a tomato-shaped kitchen timer, perhaps) to structure and advance your writing. *Focus Time* is a fun app that works with the Pomodoro Technique. Instead of using a kitchen timer, this app helps you to work for four twenty-five minute sessions (with a short break between each segment), followed by a longer break at the end. The app also presents you with statistics on your writing time.

*Write or Die* is an application that allows you to select incentives and disincentives to drive your work process. Incentives include music you like, for example, while disincentives—which appear when you are not keeping up with your goal word count—including annoying sounds and colors and having all the vowels removed from your words.

*750 Words* encourages you to write at least 750 words a day. You type directly into a page at the website; you can then export it to your word-processing software. Your writing is private, but you have the option of publishing your word count via social media. The site tracks your productivity and even makes it possible to keep track of other aspects of your life (movies you have seen this year, for example) if you wish it to.
Pitt Serves

PittServes is a University-wide initiative created to empower University of Pittsburgh students with the ability to truly make an impact on the Pittsburgh community. PittServes will connect individual students and student organizations seeking service opportunities with local and regional organizations that need volunteers for projects. For students we offer the opportunity to engage with local community organizations, create your own service project, volunteer during service days, and gain experience in your field of study through community service!
Student Health Service

Our Mission

The Mission of the Student Health Service is to provide high quality prevention, health education, and primary health care and pharmacy services to enhance student living and learning.

Our Vision

The Student Health Service will serve as the primary advocate for the health of the University of Pittsburgh students, linking the critical role of college health and mission of higher education with national health priorities.

The Student Health Service (SHS) is a conveniently accessible, comprehensive ambulatory care center that serves the students of the University of Pittsburgh. Our services are designed to specifically meet the health and wellness needs of the college-age population.

Your student health fee covers an array of primary care health care services. These include but are not limited to, the following:

- Primary medical care for acute and chronic medical conditions
- Women's health and gynecologic services
- Men's health care services
- GLBTQA services
- Basic laboratory and radiology services
- Orthopedic care
- Physical Therapy
- Observation room
- Nutritional counseling
- Sexual health and contraceptive counseling
- Rapid oral HIV testing
- Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug counseling
- Referral to specialists when necessary

Additional services are available for a nominal fee:

- Allergy injections
- Immunizations
- Intrauterine device (IUD) insertion
- Complete physical exams (with required paperwork/forms)
- Travel Health Assessments
- Specialty laboratory and radiology tests
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Software for Students

More than 100 software packages are available to students at little or no cost. Software is available at 204 Bellefield Hall and at the Technical Services Desk at the University Store on Fifth. Students can also download many titles online at no cost including Microsoft software. Browse the titles below for details.

Adobe Software for Students
Adobe allows you to create PDF files, graphics and images, and more.

Apps for Apple Mobile Devices
Students can purchase apps for their Apple mobile devices.

ArcGIS for Students
ArcGIS lets you visualize, manage, create, and analyze geographic data.

ChemBioDraw For Students
Create and modify representations of chemical structures.

Computrace LoJack for Students
Trace your laptop if it is lost or stolen.

Corel for Students
Productivity software including Word Perfect, Designer, and Draw Graphics Suite.

EndNote for Students
Search online bibliographic databases and create and format instant bibliographies.

gFTP for Students
Securely transfer files between computers with this SFTP client for Linux.

IBM SPSS Statistics for Students
Statistical analysis software for business and research problems.

JMP for Students
Statistical discovery from SAS.

KeePass Password Safe for Students
Securely manage all the different passwords you use every day.

Malwarebytes
Protect and defend your computer against malicious software.
Mathcad for Students
Solve a wide range of math, science, and engineering problems.

Mathematica for Students
A computational tool for numerics of any precision, symbolics, or visualization.

MATLAB
MATLAB for Students
Technical computing language & interactive environment for data and numerics.

Microsoft
Microsoft Campus Software for Students
Microsoft's popular suite of productivity software.

Minitab
Minitab for Students
Statistical and graphical analysis software.

SAS
SAS Analytical Suite for Students
State-of-the-art statistical analysis software.

Parallels
Parallels Desktop for Students
Run Windows and other operating systems on Intel-based Macintosh computers.

PuTTY
PuTTY for Students
Securely log in to a remote computer with this SSH client for Windows.

Prism
Prism
Combines scientific graphing, comprehensive curve fitting, understandable statistics, and data organization.

Pitt Printing Software for Students
Print from almost anywhere.

Pitt Software Update Service - Students
Automatically get Microsoft critical updates and service packs.

SecureZIP
SecureZIP for Students
Compress files and folders into archives and encrypt them with a password.

Stata
Stata for Students
Statistical software package for data analysis, data management, and graphics.

Symantec
Symantec Endpoint Protection for Students
CSSD's recommended antivirus software for Windows and Macintosh.

Thunderbird
Thunderbird for Students
The University's recommended client for Legacy Webmail (IMAP).

Scigress Modeling
Scigress Modeling
Molecular design modeling software.

StuffIt
StuffIt for Students
Compress and extract StuffIt files.
TIBCO Spotfire S+ for Students
Software for statistical analysis.

WinSCP for Students Securely transfer files between computers with this SFTP client for Windows.
Visit the Office of Off-Campus Living online at www.ocl.pitt.edu to find:

- Renters’ Guide
- Apartments and Sublets
- Roommate Matching
- Short Term Living
- Landlord Services

Off-Campus Living is dedicated to providing students with information and tools, including an informative Renters’ Guide, apartment listings and neighborhood descriptions, as well as other useful tips and contact information to assist you in your role as a tenant.

**Timing is Everything!**

When looking for accommodations, timing is key. Start your apartment search early!
Technical Consulting for Students

Student Technical Consultants are available to provide technical support to students living on campus and off campus. Service is provided by appointment or walk-in. Appointments can be scheduled by contacting the Technology Help Desk. Students living in residence halls can receive in-room technical support from consultants. Walk-in service is available at the Technology Services Desk at the University Store on Fifth or Towers Lobby.

The walk-in support locations at the University Store on Fifth and Towers Lobby can help students, faculty, and staff connect to Wireless PittNet, configure a smartphone or tablet to receive My Pitt email, install Microsoft Office, or change passwords. Consultants at the University Store on Fifth location can also help students remove viruses, connect to Pitt printers, install or repair software, and fix or even rebuild operating systems. If repairs on a computer require more time than an in-person appointment allows, a student may drop off his or her computer and pick it up once repairs have been completed.

Student Technical Consultants are available to provide technical support. Service is provided by appointment or walk-in. To schedule an appointment, contact the Technology Help Desk at 412-624-HELP [4357]. Walk-in service is available at the University Store on Fifth or Towers Lobby. If you live in the residence halls, Student Technical Consultants are also available to provide in-room technical support.

Note:

- Support services include software installation and upgrades, networking assistance, data backup and recovery, virus and spyware removal, and general software troubleshooting.
- Hardware repair services are not provided. If the consultants determine during troubleshooting that your problem is hardware-related, they may recommend possible third-party solutions.
- Networking support is provided for wireless access to PittNet only. Assistance is not provided for problems that involve outside Internet Service Providers (ISP), such as Comcast, Verizon, or AOL. Contact your ISP for assistance with problems involving these services.

Student Responsibilities

Before your support appointment, you should:

- Review the University's Computing Support Guidelines.
- Back up your data prior to your appointment.

When reporting for your support appointment at Towers Lobby or the University Store on Fifth, please:

- Present your University of Pittsburgh student ID card when you arrive for your appointment.
- Bring your computer and any unique peripherals to the appointment. The consultant area supplies standard PC and Mac monitors, mice, and keyboards for troubleshooting purposes.
- Bring the original software or license verification for any software being installed.
- Arrive on time for your scheduled appointment.
- All consultations are 30 minutes in length. If more time is required to troubleshoot a problem, you can leave your device for further assessment. After the troubleshooting has been completed, a follow-up appointment will be scheduled to review the work that was done on your device.
Customer Escalation Procedures

Student Technical Support is committed to providing you with the best possible service. In the event your questions or problems are still unresolved after consultation, please report your concerns to the Technology Help Desk at 412-624-HELP [4357].
Cross Cultural and Leadership Development

Cross Cultural and Leadership Development (CCLD) is located on the sixth floor of the William Pitt Union. This multipurpose, state-of-the-art facility is designed especially for students and student organizations. CCLD opened in the fall of 2007 to provide opportunities for students to:

- cultivate a sense of social responsibility to others
- interact and engage in meaningful dialogue and experiential learning activities
- deepen their sense of self, their understanding and appreciation of cultural differences, and the important role these differences play in the human

Cross Cultural and Leadership Development not only provides students and organizations with first-class working areas equipped with the latest technology, it is a special place on campus that:

- fosters cultural collaboration and communication
- creates centralized multi-cultural programming and workshops
- offers advisory services to all major cultural and some social groups
- offers civic, personal, and organizational leadership training
- and last, but not least, provides an informal gathering place for students

CCLD is a place where students, particularly underrepresented groups of students, can seek support and guidance as they pursue their in and out of the classroom experiences and education on the pathway to graduation from the University of Pittsburgh.

The mission of the Cross Cultural component of Cross Cultural and Leadership Development (CCLD) is to assist in the development of students through programs that increase cultural awareness and subsequently their understanding, cultural competencies, as well as to help them become more socially responsible.

ASA represents six Asian student groups: the Chinese American Student Association, Filipino Students Association, Indian Sub-Continent Association, Korean Culture Association, and the Vietnamese Student Association. The Annual Gateway Clipper-Semi Formal and a film festival highlight some of their programming.

BAS traditionally partners with CCLD and other student groups, National Society of Black Engineers and Jump Start, for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. The Pitt community also looks forward to BAS’s Black History Month programming.

CWO sponsors the annual Take Back the Night Rally/March that is focused on violence against women. Their programming also includes the Vagina Monologues and a self-defense class.

The International Graduate Student Organizations in CCLD are called ANKUR: Indian Graduate Student Association, Chinese Students and Scholars Association, Pan African Graduate and Professional Student
Association, and the newly formed Pitt International Student Association. ANKUR sponsors Diwali ‘festival of lights’, Chinese New Year Celebration, Saudi Open House, Kwanzaa, and the International Fashion show are some of their prominent programming.

SAID is a group of student facilitators trained to foster honest and transformative conversation promoting understanding and respect across group identities. SAID facilitates Intergroup Dialogues and Common Ground hot topic issues affecting our society and how we live as well as interact with each other.