

Assign a writing tutor to specific departments who are trained in discipline specific writing norms and citation styles.

CURRENT CHALLENGE:

Writing is a critical academic skill across colleges and disciplines, but many students struggle to develop their writing skills. Fresno State has a variety of services available to students who wish to improve their writing skills or a specific piece of work, including a commitment to Writing across the Curriculum and Graduate Writing Studio; however, those programs are found lacking in dealing with certain departments especially for graduate students. As a whole but particularly in disciplines that are not traditionally writing oriented, students are underserved by programs aimed to improve writing skills and programs with discipline specific writing support.

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

The solution for the problem will be to assign a writing tutor to a specific department. These tutors will be trained in discipline-specific writing norms and citation styles, and can be a specific contact person for faculty to invite to their classrooms or refer students to for one-on-one sessions. In addition, the department writing tutor would act as a contact point to introduce students to additional Writing Center services and academic support services. The role of the writing tutor or tutors could be expanded to arrange writing workshops or hosting special events or writing contests.

BENEFITS TO FRESNO STATE:

Stronger writers make stronger students. While Writing Across the Curriculum programs are available, a consistent, University-wide program that emphasizes writing support at the departmental level would create a campus-wide commitment to writing and communication skills. As a faculty member working with graduate and professional students, I also believe that these services assist students in their professional lives, improving their employability and the impression of Fresno State students on the hiring market.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: