

Call for applicants: 2023-2024 UW Academic Writing Fellows

Program Coordinator: Rick Fisher (Director, Communication across the Curriculum)

Applications due on Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 5pm.

UW scholars are invited to apply to participate in a year-long fellows program designed to improve and increase participants' scholarly productivity and publication. Eligibility is open to *any* employee 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 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 or extend an ongoing habit of producing high-quality academic writing. This initiative also serves as a means for fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and collegiality at UW.

This initiative is based 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. In 2020, the UWAWF initiative was launched in order to make this model more broadly available to the UW campus. Evidence from the first three years of UWAWF indicate that the program impacts scholarly productivity, identity, and practice.

PLAN COMPONENTS

The UWAWF program seeks to create a strong community of scholars (of 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: **Wednesday, September 13 at 3:30pm**). This meeting will allow the group to get to know one another, discuss possible writing group formats, 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** to be read in advance of the fall retreat. Books will be provided to Fellows at the informational meeting.
4. **Two writing retreats**, scheduled for **October 13-15, 2023**, from 3pm Friday to noon Sunday; and **January 26-28, 2024**, from 3pm Friday to noon Sunday. Both retreats will be held at the Vee-Bar Guest Ranch near Centennial. Fellows will need to provide their own transportation to the retreat location, but the program will cover costs of food and lodging. Participants are expected to participate fully in each retreat.
5. **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 **December 31, 2023**.
6. **An end-of-program debrief**, **May 16 at 1:30pm**.

In addition to these required elements, you will be invited to attend other optional events (e.g., mid-point check-ins, local mentor meetings, related campus workshops).

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

FINAL DELIVERABLES (due June 30, 2023). To successfully “complete” this program, Fellows must demonstrate productivity, as measured in evidence of submission of scholarly work. While most previous participants have gone beyond the baseline expectations, the program expects each writer to submit, at minimum:

1. 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.) If journal-based publication is not standard for your field, please contact the program coordinator with ideas about other top-tier scholarly efforts.
2. A second scholarly piece, such as a research article, practitioner-based article, book proposal to a reputable publisher, a grant, or another writing project approved by the program coordinators. (You must provide evidence that you have submitted this piece for review/publication.)
3. A final individual report (with evidence of submission) 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, 2024.

Participants will be asked to solidify their project types and goals no later than **October 15, 2023**.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

As noted above, “eligibility” means *any* employee of the UW community who seeks to increase productivity of high-quality scholarly work in a supported, community-based environment. (If you are interested in the program but unsure of your eligibility, please email rick.fisher@uwyo.edu for clarification. Also, note that the program has included advanced graduate students in past years, but successful graduate-student applicants should demonstrate a goal and plan for producing scholarly work beyond the dissertation.)

Selection of participants will be based on (a) a clearly articulated desire to improve the quality, scope, and/or type of publication for their scholarly work and (b) a brief writing plan, including possible publishing venues.

Additionally, final selection does take into consideration the overall makeup of the group, with a goal of achieving a range of prior writing expertise and a range of disciplinary representation.

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 September 5, 2023.**
- Applications will be evaluated by UWAWF program coordinator.
- Successful fellowship applicants will be notified by **September 8, 2023.**

The application document must include the following (as a single PDF file):

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 relevant 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 2023. 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.



Office of
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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 September 2023 through June 2024:

1. By the end of the program, I complete and submit one **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 program, I will complete and 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 2023.
4. I will participate fully in both writing retreats (in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024).
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. I understand that someone in the group must keep and submit records of 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 December 31, 2023.
7. By June 30, 2024, 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, 2024.

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 interest in the UW Academic Writing Fellows program.
 - b. A tentative writing plan (perhaps including 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. (Applicants may want to list 2-3 potential journals or venues for each planned article, and/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 should provide a rationale for why she/he is interested in contacting each of these scholars.
3. A brief two-page CV