

Call for Leadership Council Members

*****Applications due July 16, 2024*****



The Writing Program Administration-Graduate Organization (WPA-GO) invites applications for **EIGHT** (8) new Leadership Council (LC) member positions. The positions include:

- Six (6) members who serve as chair or co-chair of a WPA-GO committee. LC members hold a voting position and assist with the administration and guidance of the organization as a whole.
- One **Master's Representative** who elevates the concerns and issues particular to those newer to their graduate journeys in writing studies. The Master's Rep also chairs or co-chairs a committee and holds a voting position on the LC.
- One **Vice Chair** who oversees the Inclusion Advisory Collective (which consists of the Accessibility, Diversity, and Professional Development Committees). This role rotates to Chair after one year and then potentially Past Chair.

Please see our [WPA-GO Leadership Council 2024-2025 Application Form](#) to submit your information.

About WPA-GO

WPA-GO supports graduate student WPA professionalization and strengthens connections between graduate students, faculty, and WPAs. As part of our mission, WPA-GO is focused on strengthening our commitments to active antiracism and meaningful inclusion in writing program administration, teaching, and scholarship as well as increasing our outreach to graduate students and emerging scholars interested in writing studies. We aim to create supportive spaces for graduate students led by graduate students.

Benefits to Serving

Our current Leadership Council members list the following as some of the benefits of participating in WPA-GO as a Leadership Council (LC) member:

- Participating in a leadership role that operates at an international level
- Learning more about the field of WPA scholarship
- Networking and forging friendships, mentorships, and collaborations with peers and scholars in the field
- Gaining insight into how WPA work operates across different institutional contexts (which can be helpful on the job market)
- Collaborating on teaching materials, curriculum development, conference presentations, and publications

About the Position

New Leadership Council members will begin their terms on August 1, 2024 and serve for up to two years or until July 31st of the year that the member graduates from their program. We welcome LC members that have been active on our committees in the past in addition to graduate students interested in joining WPA-GO for the first time!

WPA-GO is committed to identity-conscious representation that will amplify voices underrepresented in academia. One of the first steps toward building a more equitable organization is becoming an organization in which graduate students from a variety of backgrounds see themselves represented; that begins with leadership. WPA-GO is committed to electing leadership that represents people of a wide variety of races, ethnicities, genders, sexualities, abilities, statuses, classes, etc. The instructions to apply for a Leadership Council position below specifically ask about race, gender, class, ability, migrant status, and sexuality in order to build an equitable organization-- not because these aspects of identity define individuals but because these are the primary axes of oppression and privilege that we directly engage in our field. **Thus, WPA-GO specifically encourages people from nondominant communities to run for positions on the LC, and the election process will not move forward until at least half (50%) of applicants for each LC position are people from nondominant communities (self-identified).**

Responsibilities: All Leadership Council members are responsible for the following duties, according to [WPA-GO's bylaws](#):

- Promoting WPA-GO at their home institutions, at conferences, and online by sharing important notices and promotional materials, especially through working with the Digital Presence committee.
- Consulting with Chair and Vice Chair on decisions including appointment of incoming Vice Chair and other initiatives as presented by the LC Chair and Vice Chair.
- Detailing individual committee goals and plans for the academic year (AY) as necessary or as requested by LC members.
- Chairing or co-chairing a committee.
- Reporting semi-annually at the end of each semester to the LC Chair and Vice Chair.
- Attending LC meetings as called by the Chair (typically monthly).
 - LC members may miss no more than two (2) LC meetings each year, barring exceptional circumstances communicated to the Chair.

Applicants for Master's Representative should review [WPA-GO's bylaws](#) for insight into specific responsibilities, but applicants can anticipate the following:

- Representing WPA-related issues and concerns pertaining to the graduate student experience at the Master's degree level in all WPA-GO activities
- Oversee and provide feedback on WPA-GO documents for Master's degree-seeking constituencies
- Participating in committees and task forces according to their interests

Applicants for Vice Chair should review [WPA-GO's bylaws](#) for insight into the position's unique responsibilities, such as acting as the head of our Inclusion Advisory Committee. The position of Vice Chair is a commitment that entails the following:

- The Vice-Chair must be prepared to devote at least eight (8) hours per month to WPA-GO duties during slow times, and more hours during busy times.
- This workload will increase when the Vice Chair cycles into the Chair position the following year.
- Applicants for Vice Chair should possess excellent communication, organization, and time management skills. Ideally, they have previous leadership experience, which can include but is not limited to teaching, facilitating workshops, participating in committee work in GO and/or other organizations, volunteering, tutoring, etc.
- The Vice Chair will oversee the Inclusion Advisory Collective, which involves organizing and collaborating with the Accessibility, Diversity, and Professional Development Committees

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be a graduate student.
- Applicants must be able to commit two years to WPA-GO as graduate students, so they must have at least two years left in their graduate program. For the Master's Representative, the expectation is at least a one-year commitment.

Past WPA experience is NOT REQUIRED to serve on the Leadership Council of WPA-GO. In fact, these positions are a great way to gain WPA experience, network and learn from both grad student WPAs and professional WPAs, and gain a grasp of the field.

To apply for a Leadership Council position with WPA-GO, please submit [WPA-GO Leadership Council 2024-2025 Application](#) by 11:59 pm CT on July 16, 2024.

When you complete the form, be prepared to provide the following information:

- a. Name, institution, program, year in program/how many years you have left.
- b. Brief bio and statement.
 - i. Brief Bio: In no more than 200 words, please share your educational background, interests, and aspirations. You are also encouraged to include your race, gender, class, ability, migrant status, and/or sexuality. We ask for this information to aid our efforts to build an equitable organization; note that your bio will be shared beyond the Leadership Council on a membership-wide ballot, so please include only what you are comfortable sharing publicly.
 - ii. Statement: In no more than 500 words, please describe how and why you are qualified for this position, including how you will leverage your previous experience, strengths, and identity to amplify underrepresented voices in WPA-GO and/ or how your previous experiences prepare you to advance the mission of WPA-GO (see our [WPA-GO's bylaws](#) for our mission). Your statement should detail your ideas for your tenure as an LC member and how those ideas address WPA-GO's commitment to active antiracism and meaningful inclusion in writing program administration, composition teaching, and writing studies

scholarship. You may also include examples of how you have advocated for graduate student needs and experiences on your campus or in your work.

c. Photo/headshot. This can be a picture of you or something representing you to be circulated with the voting ballot.

You will receive a response confirmation after submitting the form. If you have any questions or concerns about your application or the materials requested, please email wpago1@gmail.com.

What to Expect Next:

All of your submitted application materials (your name, bio, statement, and photo) will go into a survey ballot with other applicants to be voted on by the WPA-GO membership at large. You will be notified via email of the status of your candidacy after voting is completed. If you have been elected to a Leadership Council position, you will have one week to accept or decline the appointment.

The application form is available [here](#).

If you have questions about running for a position on the Leadership Council or serving in this role, please email Jagadish Paudel, Chair (jpaudel@miners.utep.edu) or Roland Dumavor, Vice Chair (rolanddumavor@gmail.com).