

**RIDGS Dissertation Writing Summer Retreat at Itasca
Commitment Form
Summer 2025**

Application Requirements:

1. Fill out this form.
2. Prepare an ~1 page abstract of your dissertation.
3. Prepare a 200-400 word plan of what you intend to accomplish during the retreat. *Be as specific as possible.* Include details about which sections you will work on, what exactly you will do as part of that work, and what quantitative changes you intend to have made by the end of the retreat.
4. (Optional, but much appreciated) If you participated in a RIDGS Dissertation Writing Retreat in the past, please describe what about those past experiences was most and least helpful.
5. Please combine all of these documents into one PDF in the following order: Commitment Form, Abstract, Plan, Past Feedback. Name it lastname_RIDGS Summer Retreat Application 2025. Email that PDF to ridgs@umn.edu by May 9.

The Center for RIDGS (Race, Indigeneity, Disability, Gender, and Sexuality) Studies is hosting a writing retreat at the University of Minnesota's Biological Station on Lake Itasca for dissertation writers for one week of concentrated writing time. We encourage applications from UMN dissertation writers who are broadly engaged with and/or committed to addressing in their research some of the most pressing socio-economic issues and inequalities of our time.

Retreat Description:

The writing retreat will span August 4-8, 2025. From Monday through Friday, we will work on our dissertations, sleep in comfortable cabins, and participate in recreational activities. We will have warm-up activities and writing prompts to facilitate writing. RIDGS will provide all meals for each day of the retreat.

Retreat Expectations:

- Attend the retreat for the entire week
- Avoid the internet or email during the hours of the retreat
- Acutely focus on writing your dissertations with sustained writing time
- Actively participate in writing warm-ups and facilitations
- Engage in community-building activities and assist with logistics

By signing below, you are agreeing to all of the writing retreat expectations.

For questions, please email ridgs@umn.edu.

College: _____

Department/Program: _____

Dissertation Title: _____

UMN Email: _____

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____