Can my consultant read and provide written comments on a draft in advance of an appointment?

While it may seem efficient for a consultant to read a draft and prepare comments in advance, a productive Graduate Writing Center appointment requires a two-way conversation. You have important information to share with your consultant about your field, your research interests and commitments, your audience and goals, your writing process, and your challenges and concerns. Your consultant has training and experience in helping writers make their writing process work for them, find answers to discipline-specific questions, set and work through writing goals, and learn new approaches for drafting, revising, or editing. Through conversation at the start of and throughout a session, you and your consultant will determine what will help you take a next step with your project.

Can I meet with a consultant for longer than one hour?

Typically, a one-hour appointment provides enough time for a writer to figure out and start taking the next steps with a project—without piling on more ideas, issues, and strategies than can be absorbed and applied. You have the option, however, of making a standing weekly appointment with a consultant to work through a long project and multiple concerns over time. You and your consultant can also discuss if it makes sense to schedule a longer time period for your next appointment.

Can I meet with a consultant in my academic field?

The Graduate Writing Center is staffed by graduate students from disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, sciences, and professional fields. All receive ongoing training and College Reading and Learning Association certification for helping writers across academic disciplines. You can visit the Meet the Consultants page on our website to learn more about each consultant’s field and interests. Graduate student writers also frequently report that they found it helpful to meet with a consultant who comes from a different field than their own—the process of explaining and clarifying discipline-specific terms and aims to an educated, engaged, but non-specialist reader helping the writer gain greater clarity and confidence. If you’d like more help in identifying a consultant who might best work with you, write gradwriting@uvm.edu or call Professor Nancy Welch, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator, at 802-656-4171.

Can I meet with the Graduate Writing Center about a Poster, Powerpoint, or Oral Presentation?

Yes! The Graduate Writing Center is here to assist UVM graduate students with all of their academic and professional communication needs.

I am working with one or more co-authors. Can we sign up for a group appointment?

Yes! The Graduate Writing Center can work with groups of up to five writers. One group member should schedule the appointment, noting in the comment box that this is a group appointment and including the other group members’ names. The others should make sure they’ve registered with uvm.mywconline.net so the consultant can create a brief session report for each student who comes to the appointment.

Can a Graduate Writing Consultant edit and prepare my manuscript for submission?

In the Graduate Writing Center you can work with a consultant to learn new editing strategies and, over time, to edit a manuscript for submission. If you are interested in professional editing services, visit our website’s Resources for Graduate Writers page for a list of professional editors in the area.