Dissertation and Thesis Jump-Start Camp
Frequently Asked Questions

What Is the Dissertation and Thesis Jump-Start Camp? This camp helps graduate writers make significant progress on their theses and dissertations. Though focused writing time, short workshops, and individual coaching, the camp gives dissertation and thesis writers structure, motivation, and strategies for a productive summer of writing.

Who Is the Camp For? This camp is especially designed for UVM graduate students who have completed the proposal and initial research for a thesis or dissertation and now seek structured time, motivational support, and professional advising as they progress with drafting. Graduate students whose programs require an extensive proposal and who are at work on proposal drafting are also welcome to apply. Camp enrollment is limited to 18 participants who can commit to attending and writing all four days.

What Does Each Camp Day Look Like? At the 10 am start of each day, a Graduate Writing Center consultant will lead a short writing-strategy workshop to help launch that day’s writing. Participants will then spend the next two hours writing with the option of scheduling an individual meeting with a Graduate Writing Center consultant. Following a healthy lunch (provided by the camp and tailored to each participant’s dietary needs), participants will have another two hours’ writing time. Although the camp will end each day at 3 pm, coffee, tea, and Graduate Writing Center support will be available for those participants who would like to continue working until 4 pm. Participants will also have the option of getting an early 9 am start each day.

Is There a Fee? How Does Registration Work? All participants register by completing a short application available from gradwriting@uvm.edu and at www.uvm.edu/writingcenter. Camp is free, but participants must return their applications with a refundable $50 deposit check payable to UVM. (Cash deposits can also be accepted at the Graduate College office.) All participants who complete the camp—attending 10 to 3 each day—will receive their deposits back on the last day. Deposits from registrants who do not complete the camp will support future camps. Completed applications and checks should be mailed or delivered to Nancy Welch, University Writing Initiatives, Howe 302; cash deposits can be left with Matthew Spindler in the Graduate College office, Waterman.

Who Sponsors the Camp? The camp is sponsored by the UVM Graduate Writing Center and UVM Graduate College. Learn more about the Graduate Writing Center by visiting www.uvm.edu/writingcenter.