Who uses the Graduate Writing Center and why? UVM graduate students seek peer guidance for a wide range of writing and communication projects (class assignments, conference presentations, thesis proposals, and more), and they can make an appointment with the Graduate Writing Center at any stage of the writing process (brainstorming and getting started, developing and revising, editing and polishing). Whatever the discipline, project, and stage of writing, the Graduate Writing Center offers all graduate student writers the benefit of talking through ideas and strategies with a knowledgeable and caring peer.

Will I meet with graduate students only in my academic discipline? How can consultants work effectively with writers working on unfamiliar topics? Although you may meet with students from your program, you are more likely to meet with students who are working in disciplines and academic writing styles that are new to you. You will also meet with both graduate student writers who are native English speakers and graduate student writers for whom English is a second (or third or fourth) language. Our paid training and ongoing meetings prepare you for working with advanced writers, including multilingual writers, across disciplines and also give you the chance to learn from other consultants about writing in their disciplines.

What is the overall time commitment and compensation? Is this a one- or multi-semester appointment? All new consultants participate in training, arranged with sensitivity to their schedules, beginning the first week of their starting semester, and also participate in three to four staff development meetings each semester. Except for breaks and holidays, the Graduate Writing Center is open from the second week of the semester through the last day of classes with each consultant scheduled for up to six one-hour appointments each week. New consultants are paid $15 an hour for all training, staff meeting, and consultation hours. Graduate writing consultants commit to one semester and are eligible for renewal, with a pay increase to $18 an hour, if they are working satisfactorily within the Graduate Writing Center’s guidelines and are in good standing with their programs. Training and consultation hours also count toward the College Reading and Learning Association’s Level I, II, and Master tutor certification.

Can I serve as a graduate writing consultant if I already have an assistantship or fellowship? If your assistantship, fellowship, and/or visa terms do not preclude additional campus employment and if your other academic obligations leave you with some free time in your schedule, you can apply for a graduate writing consultant position. But because your advisor or program director plus the Graduate College will need to approve this additional employment, please check with both before applying. An international student who has restrictions on additional employment but who would like the professional development experience of the Graduate Writing Center might be eligible to gain writing center experience through an independent study. Please contact Graduate Writing Center coordinator Nancy Welch at gradwriting@uvm.edu if you are interested in this option.

How will my schedule be determined and where will consultations take place? Before the first week of the semester you will decide, in coordination with other consultants, what Sunday through Friday days and times you would like to staff the Graduate Writing Center. Our Howe Library suite of offices accommodates individual, group, and online appointments; we also offer monthly Sunday graduate writing retreats and Dana Medical Library Drop-In hours.