Some Frequently Asked Questions about Becoming a Writing Tutor

**What is the process for becoming a tutor?**

There are four steps to becoming a writing tutor.

- **Recommendation:** You need to be recommended by (or get a recommendation from) a professor.
- **Interview:** During the interview, the Writing Center Director will ask a series of questions to learn more about you, explain what’s involved in being a tutor, and answer any questions you have. You do not need to bring anything to the interview.
- **Application and Writing Sample:** At the end of the interview, you’ll receive a tutor application form. If you’re interested in applying, you can submit the application form plus a sample of your writing. Tutors are selected and notified by early April so that they will be able to register for English 104 when signing up for fall classes.
- **Register for English 104 and 105:** If you are selected to become a tutor, you need to register for English 104 in the fall and English 105 in the spring.

**What do the two courses taken by new tutors involve?**

English 104 (fall semester) has a practical focus on building each tutor’s identity and skills as a writing tutor. We cover a series of topics central to tutoring writing, including the role of a writing tutor, how to set an agenda, ways of approaching the writing process, ways of approaching the tutoring process, strategies that help at various points in the writing process, working with students with learning disabilities, working with multilingual students, and understanding the expectations for writing across the disciplines.

English 105 (spring semester) takes a more critical and theoretical look at tutoring writing. We examine how various aspects of identity shape writers and sessions, and how various constructions of writing centers impact what we do and how we view our work as tutors. By the end of the year, you should be not only an effective tutor, but also a more self-aware and reflective tutor, with more options and strategies to bring to sessions.

**How much of a time commitment is required of tutors? Do I get paid?**

In your first year of tutoring, the time involved each semester (for the class and tutoring) is about the same as for a normal three-credit course in the humanities. We meet during the Monday and Wednesday class periods, with about 2-3 hours of homework for each class. Instead of a Friday class period and homework, everyone tutors for 3 hours each week (not necessarily on Fridays—we find 3 hours that fit well into each tutor’s schedule). Tutors receive course credit for tutoring during their first year.

In their second year, tutors are paid $10.50/hour for all Writing Center work, and in their third year, $11.00/hour. Students eligible for work study can earn $13/hour. Second and third year tutors usually continue tutoring in the Writing Center for about 3 hours each week. They can also participate in some additional Writing Center roles, such as serving as a writing tutor attached to a class, giving presentations about the Writing Center, and working with students at other venues, such as the Advising Center and the HUB.

**When do I start tutoring?** New tutors begin during the fourth week of the fall semester, and then continue tutoring for 3 hours each week for the remainder of the year (excluding holidays and breaks).

**Who comes to the Writing Center?** Students come to the Writing Center from all of the colleges and schools, working on papers assigned in classes across the curriculum. Typically, about 40% of the sessions are with first-year students, about 25% with sophomores, and about 35% with juniors, seniors, and graduate students.

**How many tutors are there?** The Writing Center is staffed by about 50 peer writing tutors, usually about half newly hired in the fall and half tutoring for their second or third year. The tutors come from across the disciplines, and range from sophomores to seniors.