

Writing Centres in Canada: Historical Perspectives and Institutional Locations

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Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication

University of Western Ontario





1920-1970s

Idealism supplants rhetoric (Hubert)

- 20th century—literature supplants rhetoric (oral and written communication) with the rise of English departments who increasingly define themselves through the study of literature
- Rise of professional schools leads to pressure to teach oral and written communication somewhere, anywhere



Circa 1990

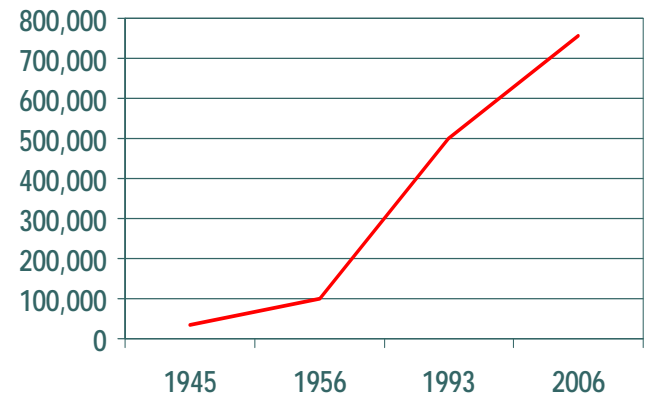
Late 20th century snapshot:

- Writing programs (courses, writing centres/labs/tutorial sessions) spread throughout universities (Graves 1994)
- Movement in US to form a field of study in composition/rhetoric/technical communication with establishment of CCCC, RSA, ATTW

Why writing programs keep growing

- 1. Increasing demand for higher education generally**
 - Participation rates up: Over 800,000 university students in Canada (Statistics Canada, November 2006); in 1945 there were 35,000 students in all of Canada

University enrollments growing





The 1960s: the York U. story

- York University: the Writing Workshop founded in 1967 in Arts (but not a department)
- Initially seen as remedial
- Changed its name to Writing Centre, and then to The Centre for Academic Writing as its mission expanded
- Now offers credit courses, peer tutoring, workshops, WAC faculty assistance



Today: University of Toronto

15 Writing Centres
spread across 3
campuses

2 academic
programs:

Writing and
Rhetoric

Professional
Writing &
Communication

Writing Centres in Arts and Science, St. George

You are eligible to work with the writing centre at the college or campus where you are currently enrolled (NEW, SMC, TRN, UNI, or VIC), you may also take assignments from that college or campus.

- [Innis College Writing Centre](#), Innis College Room 322; book appointment
- [New College Writing Centre](#), Wilson Hall, Rooms 2045 and 2047; book appointment
- [St. Michael's College Writing Centre](#), Kelly Library, Rooms 230 and 231
- [Trinity College Writing Centre](#), Larkin Building, Room 302; book appointment
- [University College Writing Workshop](#), Laidlaw Library, Room 214; book appointment
- [Victoria College Writing Centre](#), Northrop Frye Hall, various locations; book appointment
- [Woodsworth College Academic Writing Centre](#), Woodsworth Room 214; book appointment

If you are taking a course in **French** or **Philosophy**, you may be eligible to work with the [Writing Centre](#) for information about its services for this academic year. The [Philosophy Writing Centre](#) also offers an appointment.

To find out about the free **group** workshops given by writing centres, ask at your writing centre.

Writing Centres at the Mississauga and Scarborough Campuses

- [Bob Gillespie Academic Skills Centre](#), Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre
- [U of T at Scarborough Writing Centre](#), Room 210C, Academic Resource Centre

Each year, UT Mississauga offers a full range of workshops and seminars. The U of T Scarborough Writing Centre also offers a full range of workshops and seminars. The U of T Scarborough Writing Centre also offers a full range of workshops and seminars. The U of T Scarborough Writing Centre also offers a full range of workshops and seminars.

Writing Centres in the Professional Faculties:

- Architecture Writing Program, 230 College Street; book appointments at 416-978-2828
- [Engineering Communication Centre](#), Sandford Fleming B670; book appointments at 416-978-2828
- [Health Sciences Writing Centre](#) (for students in Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Physiotherapy); you can now [ask questions](#) online too.
- [OISE Academic and Cultural Support Centre \(ACSC\)](#), Room 8-255, 25 Spadina Avenue

U of Winnipeg Centre for Academic Writing

Degree programs, tutoring

Centre for Academic Writing

Major in Rhetoric and Communications

[UWinnipeg](#) | [CAW Home](#) | [AW Requirements](#) | [AW Courses](#) | [CAW Courses](#) | [Major](#) | [Joint Degree](#) | [Faculty](#) | [Tutoring Centre](#) | [Links](#)



By words the mind is winged
-- Aristophanes

Centre for Academic Writing Courses

Current Year: Fall, 2005 - Winter, 2006

Courses in the **Centre for Academic Writing (CAW)** teach writing as a means of discovering, developing, and revising ideas to help prepare students for success in academic studies and in subsequent careers. A number of CAW courses at the 2000-level or above are cross-listed with the **Department of English** and may be taken for credit toward a major in English, or counted toward any degree as electives.

Degrees/Programs Offered

- 3-Year BA in Rhetoric and Communications
- 4-Year BA in Rhetoric and Communications
- Joint Communications Degree/Diploma (UW/RRC)

Students interested in either Rhetoric and Communications Major or the Joint Degree/Diploma program should contact the Centre for Academic Writing (786-9117) or view our web site for basic information. Students are also encouraged to seek advice for CAW faculty about appropriate courses.

Centre for Academic Writing
(204) 786-9117
3rd Floor of Graham Hall
<http://io.uwinnipeg.ca/~caw>

Navigation Summary

- [Introduction](#)
- [CAW Courses](#)
- [AW Requirements](#)
- [AW Courses](#)
- [Major](#)
- [UW/RRC Degree](#)
- [Centres - Lab](#)

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University of Calgary

Non-credit courses, test, tutoring

The screenshot shows the website for the Faculty of Communication & Culture at the University of Calgary. The header features the slogan "think differently about our complex and everchanging world" and the faculty name "Faculty of COMMUNICATION & CULTURE". The University of Calgary logo is in the top right. A navigation bar includes "OUR FACULTY", "FOR UNDERGRADS", "FOR GRAD STUDENTS", "RESEARCH", and "EFFECTIVE WRITING". A left sidebar lists "WRITING CENTRE" (selected), "APPOINTMENTS", "REQUIREMENT/TEST", "COURSES/WORKSHOPS", "MELAB", and "WRITING RESOURCES". The main content area has a "Writing Centre" section with a list of services: Writing Centre Tutorials, Writing Centre Passes, Getting Writing Centre Help via E-Mail, and Cancelling an Appointment. A "Contact Us" section lists "Prepare Your Trip to the Writing Centre" and "Contact the Effective Writing Office". A breadcrumb trail shows "Effective Writing > Writing Centre". Below is a "Writing Centre Tutorials" section with an image of a desk and a pen, and text stating that the centre offers free, individual tutorial help for University of Calgary students. It directs students to use a web-based appointment booking service. At the bottom, it notes that students can also get help by e-mailing wconline@ucalgary.ca. A blue box in the bottom left corner says: "Welcome to our NEW website. We hope that you will enjoy it and visit it daily."

UBC Writing Centre

Continuing
education
courses,
tutoring, non-
credit courses

The screenshot shows the UBC Writing Centre website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "UBC Continuing Studies" on the left and "HOW TO REGISTER | SEARCH | CONTACT US" on the right. Below this is a green banner with "UBC Writing Centre" in white text. A central image shows a man and a woman sitting at a desk, looking at a document. To the right of the banner is a "SEARCH & REGISTER" section with a "FEATURED PROGRAMS" sub-section. Below this is a "New! Spring/Summer 2007 Brochure Download" section with a green graphic. At the bottom, there is a "WELCOME TO UBC WRITING CENTRE" section with a paragraph of text.

UBC Continuing Studies

HOW TO REGISTER | SEARCH | CONTACT US

UBC Writing Centre

UBC Writing Centre

HOME

- WRITING 098 AND THE LPI
- ACADEMIC WRITING
- PROFESSIONAL WRITING
- PERSONAL AND CREATIVE WRITING
- CUSTOMIZED BUSINESS AND TECHNICAL WRITING WORKSHOPS
- SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAMS
- ONLINE COURSES
- TUTORING SERVICES
- RESOURCES
- ABOUT US
- HOW TO FIND US
- SITE MAP

SEARCH & REGISTER

FEATURED PROGRAMS

Summer Intensive Courses
Our [one-week summer intensive courses](#) are beginning to fill up! Register now to ensure yourself a space. Programs are available in **creative, professional, and academic** writing.

New!
[Spring/Summer 2007 Brochure Download](#)

WELCOME TO UBC WRITING CENTRE

The UBC Writing Centre offers non-credit writing courses to those who wish to improve their [academic, professional, business](#) and [creative](#) writing skills. Join us for part-time courses in preparing for the Language Proficiency Index Test (LPI), improving grammar, writing academic essays, and writing reports along with other business correspondence. In addition, we can offer private companies customized in-house [business writing workshops](#).

SFU Writing Services

Tutoring,
workshops

STUDENT LEARNING COMMONS
VANCOUVER

Learn. Collaborate. Grow.
SFU Calendar | mySFU | goSFU | RefWorks | WebCT

> SLC at SFU Burnaby > SLC at SFU Surrey > CONTACT

Focus In

WELCOME

During the Summer 2007 semester, students at SFU Vancouver are welcome to register for workshops or make an appointment with an SLC Peer at the Burnaby campus. Follow the links to the right for further details.

Writing and Learning Skills workshops and SLC Peer consultations will again be offered at SFU Vancouver in the Fall 2007 semester. Check this page for further announcements.

If you have any comments or suggestions about SLC services at SFU Vancouver, please contact Karen Marotz, Head, Belzberg Library at marotz@sfu.ca or call 604.291.5054.

Writing Services

- + About
- + Drop ins
- + Hot Topics
- + Consultations
- + Online Writing Resources
- + Workshops

Learning Services

Library Services

Computing Services

EAL/ESL Services

Thesis Assistant

More Help

Hot Topics

- + Tip of the Week!
- + Academic Integrity
- + Become A Peer Educator
- + Online Resources

SEARCH TEXT SIZE

> WHAT'S NEW

> MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

> REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

June 1, 2007
Lib Skills Refreshers

June 7, 2007
Exam Strategies

June 27, 2007
Academic Writing: Tame that Wild Research Paper Beast!

More

→ Academic Writing: Tame that Wild Research Paper Beast!