

## Glossary

AA: Academic Affairs.

ASC: Academic Success Center. Originally called Study Skills, it was part of the Communication Skills Center and coordinated by Michele Sakurai. Its name was changed to the Academic Success Program, and in 2004, it became an independent program administrated by Moira Dempsey.

ASOSU: Associated Students of Oregon State University.

Assessment: “demonstrat[ing] that the objectives of [a] program and [ . . . ] the performance of its students and graduates are being systematically measured and used to enhance the educational programs” (“Goals and Metrics”).

Baccalaureate core curriculum: OSU’s general education requirements.

Ballot Measure 5: A 1990 state proposal to limit property taxes.

Blue form: Used in the Writing Center for communication between writing assistants and faculty (usually when a student is referred to the Writing Center)

CAMP: College Assistant Migrant Program.

CCCC: Conference on College Composition and Communication. A professional organization which supports and encourages the study of composition and communication in colleges by hosting yearly conferences and publishing various materials.

Center for Writing and Learning Online Portal: A website designed by Dennis Bennett, the coordinator of the Writing Center, for communication among the staff and writing assistants of the Writing Center. Includes the writing assistant’s training manual, various resources, communications, and blogs.

Collaboration/collaborative learning: students and tutors working together and learning from each other.

Conference: A session in which a tutor and student work together on writing. These are usually one-on-one sessions

Conversant Program: A program in the CWL from the late 1980s in which native students met with international students to improve the latters’ command of English. The program moved to the English Language Institute in the early 2000s.

Coordinator: A person in charge of running a writing center. At OSU, the coordinator is in charge of the day-to-day aspects and reports to the director, who administrates the Writing Center as part of the Center for Writing and Learning.

CLA: College of Liberal Arts.

CSC: Communications Skills Center (1976-1990). The umbrella program which included the Writing Lab.

CWL: Center for Writing and Learning (1990-present). The umbrella program which includes the Writing Center.

Dead Week: The final week of classes of each term, in which no final, midterm, or comprehensive exams are supposed to be given.

Director: A person who administrates a writing center and/or an umbrella unit. At OSU, the director administrates the CWL, of which the Writing Center is a part.

EDT: English Diagnostic Test.

GRA: Graduate Research Assistant.

GTA: Graduate Teaching Assistant.

International Writing Centers Association (IWCA): The professional organization which grew out of the National Writing Centers Association (NCWA) in 1983 for writing center directors and staff and for others interested in writing center work. It holds bi-annual conferences. It has a governing boards and a constitution. Its website is an excellent resources for writing center materials, information about conferences, and job postings.

LBCC: Linn-Benton Community College, located in Albany, Oregon.

NNES: Non-native English Speaker. Traditionally known as ESL (English as a Second Language) or ESOL (English as a Second or Other Language).

Open admissions: A policy in which institutions of higher education (colleges and universities) relax their admissions policies, generally admitting anyone with a high school diploma or GED. This type of policy is often instituted after wars, such as WWII and Vietnam.

OSU: Oregon State University, located in Corvallis, Oregon.

OWL: Online Writing Lab. Any sort of online or internet writing assistance, from grammar and punctuation guidelines to submission of essays to a writing center to be evaluated by a tutor. The OWL at OSU provides some grammar and punctuation information, links of other websites, and a service for sending a draft of an essay and receiving feedback from a trained writing assistant.

Pacific Northwest Writing Centers Association (PNWCA): A regional branch of the International Writing Centers Association, including staff and tutors from writing centers in Alaska, British Columbia, Oregon, Washington and the Yukon. It holds

bi-annual conferences.

Process: See Writing Process.

Reporting lines: The person, department, or division to which a writing center administrator reports. These lines generally define the writing center's place in the institution; those in it determine the budget given to the writing center and have ultimate control over its fate.

Satellite Writing Center: A smaller writing center associated with a larger or central one in a second area (on or off the institution's main campus). At OSU, one of these is located in the library and offers evening and weekend hours when the main Writing Center is closed.

Strategic plan: A long-term plan with incremental steps to improve or change specific facets of an institution. OSU has had a number of strategic plans; the current strategic plan has areas a variety of areas of focus, including student retention, which benefits the CWL and the Writing Center.

Student: For the purposes of this thesis, a person attending OSU who visits the Writing Center for assistance with writing. Students may be from all undergraduate and graduate years, full-time and part-time, and native or non-native speakers of English.

Study Skills: A program that began as part of the OSU Counseling Center services and combined with writing and reading services in 1976 in the Communication Skills Center. The name was eventually changed to Academic Success, and it has been a free-standing program since 2004.

Supplemental Instruction Study Tables (SISTs): A program administered by the Academic Success Center, in which a number of students are paired with a student experienced and successful in a specific field. They meet at least weekly as a group for the entire term, and teaching exists both between the students and the student helper and among the students themselves. Because of the great interest in joining an SISTs in fall 2005, students who had scored the lowest on the math placement test were allowed to join the program. The preliminary results from Math 111 showed a significant increase on scores on exams and in enthusiasm for the subject matter.

Tutor: The general term for any person who works individually with students in writing centers. In many cases, these tutors are students. Tutors at the OSU Writing Center are called writing assistants.

Upper-level course: Any course intended for juniors and seniors, with the course numbers starting with 300 and 400 (at OSU). Students of any year may take upper-level courses if they have completed the prerequisites for the course and/or have professor permission.

WCRP: Writing Centers Research Project. A program located at the University of Louisville which collects material and statistics from writing centers and does interviews with representatives of writing centers. It also supplies information about conducting interviews and gathering material for interested individuals.

WIC: Writing Intensive Curriculum. A program of Writing Across the Curriculum that began at OSU in 1990. Each student must take at least one course in his or her major that involves a lot of writing (formal and informal) and is designated as a WIC course by the WIC director.

Work -study Program: A federally-funded program in which students earn money to help pay their school fees by working in one of any number of jobs on- or off-campus for a specified number of weekly hours. More information is available at “The Student Guide: Financial Aid from the U.S. Department of Education” at [http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student\\_guide/2003\\_2004/english/types-fed-workstudy.htm](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/2003_2004/english/types-fed-workstudy.htm).

Writing 121: English Composition. The first of the college-level writing courses, it is required of every student in the Oregon University System.

WritingQ: A hotline to answer short, writing-related questions, run by the OSU Writing Center.

Writing assistant: A person, usually an undergraduate or graduate student, who works with students who come to the OSU Writing Center for assistance. These are called tutors in some writing centers.

Writing Center: The program at OSU which offers individual, collaborative assistance to all students (and faculty, as requested) at the university. The Writing Center is staffed by student writing assistants, run by a coordinator, and administrated by a director. It is located on the first floor of Waldo Hall and has a satellite Center in the Kerr Library. When not capitalized in this thesis, writing center refers to all writing centers despite their individual names.

Writing Lab: The name of the OSU Writing Center from 1976 to 1990.

Writing process: The idea that people write in various stages and that they go back and forth between the various stages as needed. The stages include prewriting (freewriting, brainstorming, etc.), drafting, revising, and editing.

Yellow Cards: The process by which information about the students and types of sessions in the Writing Center is gathered. The form was expanded and put online in 2005, allowing for up to the moment statistics and increased privacy for students using the Writing Center. Students fill out the form each time they visit the Writing Center. Writing assistants fill out the first portion of the form giving basic information about the visit and which issues were addressed.