

WRITING RESOURCES FOR FSPH GRADUATE STUDENTS AND PH/EHS MINORS

Strong communication skills, including the ability to write clearly and concisely for different audiences, are essential tools for all public health professionals. Below some resources are listed to help you hone your writing skills while you are at UCLA.

Writing Center: Individuals who need help with specific writing assignments for their courses and/or wish to work on becoming more effective and confident writers are encouraged to go to the Graduate Writing Center (<http://gsrc.ucla.edu/gwc/>) or the Undergraduate Writing Center (<http://www.wp.ucla.edu/index.php/home>), depending on their program. These resources are only available to registered students. Please check the websites listed above for specific hours that these services are available and for information about how to obtain an appointment. In addition, the Graduate Writing Center offers a series of workshops (<http://gsrc.ucla.edu/gwc/workshops/>) and will help students to organize writing groups for students with similar needs and interests (<http://gsrc.ucla.edu/gwc/writing-groups/>). They also offer “boot camps” for students preparing to write their dissertation proposal/prospectus or their actual dissertation (<http://gsrc.ucla.edu/gwc/workshops/#Diss>).

Individual Tutoring: Students who want to work one-on-one or in small groups on their writing over a series of sessions can hire individual tutors. UCLA Extension offers a tutor referral service; many of these individuals also teach English as a Second Language (ESL) courses through UCLA extension. For a list of possible tutors, contact the Program Representative, Mr. Brandon Paris at 310-825-9068 or via email at bparis@unex.ucla.edu.

English Composition courses: The UCLA Writing Programs offer a wide range of courses (see <http://www.wp.ucla.edu/index.php/courses-academic-year/course-catalog> and <http://www.registrar.ucla.edu/catalog/catalog13-14-808.htm>), including a specialized writing course that is designed for students interested in pursuing careers in medicine and public health (English Composition 131C):

ENGCOMP 131A-131D. Specialized Writing. (4 each) Lecture, four hours. Requisite: satisfaction of Entry-Level Writing and English Composition requirements. Designed for juniors/seniors. Advanced writing course designed to help students develop stylistic, formal, and argumentative sophistication in various rhetorical contexts, including different sections that emphasize rhetorical values of major professions and research areas. Each course may be taken independently for credit. P/NP or letter grading. **131A.** Law and Politics; **131B.** Business and Social Policy; **131C.** Medicine and Public Health; **131D.** Media and Communications.

You may also find the following courses useful:

ENGCOMP 100W. Interdisciplinary Academic Writing. (5) Lecture, four hours. Requisite: course 3 or 3H or English as a Second Language 36. Designed for sophomores/juniors/seniors. Course in academic writing suitable for both lower and upper division students that helps them develop academic papers with range of complexity and length. Focus on conventions of academic prose and genres across disciplines. Written assignments include common forms of academic writing such as argument, research paper, and/or critical essay. Satisfies Writing II requirement. Letter grading.

ENGCOMP 123. Information Literacy and Research Skills. (1) Lecture, one hour. Preparation: satisfaction of Writing I requirement. Designed to help students become information literate, so they know how to identify, locate, critically evaluate, and use print and electronic information effectively and ethically. Closely interwoven with Writing Programs courses that have information/research-related assignments. P/NP or letter grading.

ENGCOMP 136A-136B-136C. Practical Writing and Editing. (4-4-4) Lecture, three hours. Preparation: one course from 131 series. Requisites: satisfaction of Entry-Level Writing requirement, course 3. Sequence in practical writing and editing ability specifically designed to prepare students for careers. Analysis of prose and literary styles necessary to variety of writing in professional, nonacademic fields combined whenever possible with practical experience in variety of writing internships and training in wide range of editorial skills. In Progress (136A) and P/NP or letter (136B, 136C) grading.

English as a Second Language (ESL) courses: A range of classes are also offered at UCLA that are specifically designed to help students whose first language is not English to improve their academic language skills, including reading, listening, speaking and writing in English (<http://www.registrar.ucla.edu/catalog/catalog13-14-807.htm>):

- **ESL 32**, Conversation and Interaction for Academic Purposes (Summer)
- **ESL 33B**, Intermediate English for Academic Purposes (Fall)
- **ESL 33C**, Advanced English for Academic Purposes (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- **ESL 33G**, Advanced English for Academic Purposes for Graduate Students (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- **ESL 35**, Approaches to University Writing for ESL Students (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- **ESL 97A**, Variable Topics in English as a Second Language (Summer)

There are also several ESL courses for international students who wish to serve as Teaching Assistants. For more details on each of these courses, see:

<http://www.wp.ucla.edu/index.php/ta-applications/courses-for-international-tas>

To determine which course is appropriate for you, you should register for and take the ESL Placement Exam:

<http://www.wp.ucla.edu/index.php/placement-exam-schedule>

Writing Classes Offered in FSPH: A number of courses in FSPH include writing components; please check the course listings for each department for more details. The following courses are among those that focus explicitly on development of professional writing skills:

CHS 225. Writing for Publication in Public Health. (4) Seminar, four hours. Requisites: course 219, two graduate biostatistics courses, one graduate epidemiology course. Development of skills for advanced doctoral students in producing peer-review-quality research papers, with focus on theoretically informed empirical research papers. Examination of other types of manuscripts (e.g., reviews) included. Letter grading.

CHS 485. Resource Development for Community Health Programs. (4) Lecture, three hours; fieldwork, one hour. Designed for graduate students. Overview course of fund and resource development for public health and community-based programs. Lectures and workshops include developing grant proposals, researching funding sources, evaluating proposals, developing volunteer and in-kind resources, and implementing capital campaigns. Letter grading.

EHS M412. Effective Technical Writing. (2) (Same as Environment M412.) Lecture, one hour. Essentials of grammar, punctuation, syntax, organization, and format needed to produce well-written journal articles, research reports, memoranda, letters, and résumés. Emphasis on accuracy, clarity, conciseness, and avoidance of common errors in advanced technical writing, using critique, exercises, and examples. S/U grading. **(Please note that we are in the process of updating the course offerings in professional writing in EHS, so you should continue to check the registrar's site for new offerings.)**

EPI 413. Methods of Scientific Communication. (2) Lecture, two hours. Prerequisites: courses 200A, 200B, and 200C (or 100). Principles of scientific writing and communication. Approaches to developing effective written, oral, and visual presentations of epidemiologic research findings. Communication issues arising in conduct of research, including informed consent process. S/U or letter grading.

Please note that these courses may be restricted to students from the department in which they are offered; please contact the instructors for specific courses if you wish to take a course outside your home department to find out whether this is possible.

Research Workshops and the UC Library System: The Biomed Library at UCLA offers a regular series of Research Workshops, on topics ranging from how to use bibliographic programs such as *Endnote* or *Zotero* to how to formulate research questions and conduct online searches. To see upcoming offerings, see:

<http://www.library.ucla.edu/service/research-workshops>

Information about how to conduct research and find resources in the UC Library System can be found at:

<http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/col/uc-research-tutorial/begin.html>

You can also submit a request online to set up a request for personalized instruction from a librarian in the *Louise M. Darling Biomedical* Library at:

<http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/biomed/research-help>

To find out who the current library specialist is that focuses on Public Health, see:

<http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/sciences-subject-specialists>

Recommended Books:

- “A Writer's Reference with Exercises” by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers (ISBN-10: 0312601476)
- “A Writer's Reference with Resources for Multilingual Writers and ESL” by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers (ISBN-10: 0312649363)
- “Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success” by Wendy Laura Belcher (ISBN-10: 141295701X)
- “Writing Science: How to Write Papers That Get Cited and Proposals That Get Funded” by Joshua Schimel (ISBN-10: 0199760241)
- “Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace”, 4th Edition by Joseph M. Williams and Gregory G. Colomb (ISBN-10: 0205830765)

More references/links: For more resources, see: <http://gsrc.ucla.edu/gwc/resources/>