

ALC

Atrium Learning Center
Writing Initiative

FACULTY FAQ

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Mission Statement

The Atrium Learning Center's Writing Initiative helps students develop effective communication skills and tools for lifelong learning through one-on-one tutoring and collaborative activities. We aim to enable student success in course work, professional development, and as community members. We offer help for any stage of the writing process, including brainstorming, outlining, drafting, editing, and revising.

What kind of tutoring goes on in the Learning Center?

Tutors help students with most writing work: brainstorming, outlining, drafting, editing, and revising. Students can come at any stage of the writing process and we encourage them to return with more than one draft to chart their progress. Tutors also help with grammar or syntax, as well as sentence clarity. What tutors don't do is proofread for spelling or typographical errors. Rather, they can teach students to do that themselves.

May I bring an entire class to the Learning Center?

If you want to bring a class, please let us know in advance to make an appointment for a guided tour and brief introduction. Otherwise, small groups of students and individual students can come to the Learning Center to work with writing tutors or software.

Which students benefit?

We think all students benefit, from students who are working on subject–verb agreement, to students who need help with transitions between paragraphs, to students who need help polishing their final drafts. Every student can come in at any level and at any stage of their writing process.

What should a student bring to a visit?

We have referral forms that we send to all faculty and you can give to the student before a visit; it's helpful to use these so a tutor can focus on something you notice. It's best when a student has your writing assignment, syllabus, the text, and something to take notes with.

Should I require visits in my syllabus?

We like when faculty ask students to visit the Learning Center, rather than requiring visits; it makes most sense to connect a visit with a specific writing objective or a particular student need. We find that when content and assignments are linked to the Learning Center, the result is a better experience for students.

How do I know if my student has been to the Learning Center?

We have a form that documents a student's visit, but the referral form also has space for the tutor to add comments and send it back to you with the student.