The Writing Center: Winter 2012 Data Analysis
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Many Carleton students utilize the Writing Center
- The writing center staff conducted 577 appointments
- 80% of appointments were return visits
- 44% of appointments were made by first-year students, 22% by sophomores, 21% by juniors, and 13% by seniors

Students bring a variety of projects to the Writing Center
- Students came with projects from most academic departments, including the natural sciences and statistics
- Students made appointments to work on essays (71.2%), applications (10.4%), comps (6.5%), writing portfolios (4.8%), resumes (0.6%), and other projects (6.5%)
- 43% of projects were 3-5 pages, 22% were 6-10 pages, 22% were 1-2 pages, 10% were over 20 pages, and 3% were 11-20 pages
- 48% of seniors’ visits were for comps, 33% for essays, 16% for applications, and 3% for other projects

Students visit the Writing Center to make substantive improvements to their work
- The average appointment lasted around 45 minutes
- Students mostly focused on issues of clarity (54% of appointments), organization (44%), and thesis formation (34%)
- 13% of students worked on better integrating support into their papers
- Students also made appointments in order to improve their writing skills in the long run: 25% of appointments were for proofreading, 14% of appointments were made to brainstorm, and 6% of appointments were for help with citations
- A further breakdown of appointment focus by class year, by gender, and by project type is given in the graphs below

Students visited the Writing Center at different times during the writing process
- 16% of students came during the prewriting stage, 16% had a partial first draft, 45% had a first draft, and 23% had a second draft
- The Writing Center is available for last minute help: 15% of students visited the day their project was due, 27% the day before their project was due, and 16% two days before the due date
- Other students planned further ahead: 20% of students came 3-5 days before the project due date, 8% came a week before the project was due, and 14% came more than a week before the due date

Females made more appointments than males
- 67% of appointments were made by females
Project Length

- 11-20 pages: 3%
- 20+ pages: 10%
- 1-2 pages: 22%
- 6-10 pages: 22%
- 3-5 pages: 43%

Appointment Focus

- Clarity: 50%
- Thesis: 40%
- Organization: 50%
- Citations: 10%
- Brainstorm: 10%
- Integration: 10%
- Proofread: 20%

% of Appointments
Focus of Appointment by Project Type

Stage of Writing Process
When is the Project Due?

- Today: 15%
- Tomorrow: 27%
- 2 Days: 16%
- 3-5 Days: 20%
- More than a Week: 14%
- A Week: 8%
- More than a Week: 14%
- A Week: 8%
- Today: 15%
- Tomorrow: 27%
- 2 Days: 16%
- 3-5 Days: 20%
- More than a Week: 14%
- A Week: 8%

When is the Project Due?