Writing Center Data (Fall 09)

Carleton students make frequent use of the Writing Center

- The Writing Center staff conducted over 550 consulting sessions.
- 65% of appointments at the Writing Center were return visits.
- 68% of students using the Writing Center were first year students, 14% were sophomores, 5% were juniors, and 13% were seniors.
- Monday (111 total) and Tuesday (115 total) were the most popular days to visit the Writing Center during fall term.
- The Writing Center was busiest on Sundays, with an average of 2-3 appointments per hour.
- On weekdays, there were an average of 1-2 appointments every hour.

Students bring a variety of projects to the Writing Center

- Students came with projects from all departments, excluding Math, Chemistry, Biology, and foreign languages.
- 16% of visits from seniors were for applications, 12% for comps.
- Most projects were essays (93%), over half of which ranged from 3-5 pages (53%).
- 16% of papers were 1-2 pages, 24% were 6-10 pages, and 7% were 10+ pages.

Students visit the Writing Center to make substantive improvements to their work

- Students mostly focused on issues of clarity (60%), organization (62%), and thesis refinement (53%).
- A third of students made an appointment with the goal of better integrating support into their paper (32%).
- Students also made appointments in order to improve their writing skills in the long run: 9% visited for assistance with brainstorming, 22% visited for proofreading, and 18% visited for help with citations.
- The Writing Center is available even for last minute help: a third of students visited the on or the day before their project was due (33%), a fifth of students visited two days before the due date (19%).
- Other students planned for long term goals: a third of students visited up to 7 days in advance (32%), and 6% visited with more than a week to spare!
-Students visiting the Writing Center by class year.
Most students that came for a first time continued to work with on their projects with the Writing Center.
Student appointments by department. There was a wide range of disciplines in fall 09. Introductory English courses strongly encourage use of the Writing Center.
Essays are clearly the most common project type at the Writing Center.
-The Writing Center isn’t just for classes! Seniors focused on Comps and Applications in addition to essays.
- Students focused mostly on clarity, thesis, and organization.
-Students came at all stages of the writing process
The results differed slightly by class year.
Total fall term visits by day, Monday and Tuesday were the most popular.
The total number of appointments over fall term 09. The most appointments were around midterms and finals.
-Sundays are the busiest day at the Writing Center
The average number of appointments each hour over fall term. Once again, the Writing Center is the busiest around midterms and finals.

Average Visitors Over Time

Date

Average Visitors per Hour

Visitor Density

Trend