

CALL FOR PROPOSALS THE WRITING IN MAJORS PROFILE PROJECT

Up to five DU departments/programs will be selected each year to participate in a modest project designed to help faculty understand student writing within their majors. Participating departments/programs will be chosen to represent a variety of academic areas (business, fine arts, humanities, social sciences, sciences, etc.). Following is the call for year two of the study. Participating in year one were chemistry, political science, history, human communications, and philosophy.

Goal

The goal of this action research project is to profile student writing experiences and performances within specific majors at DU, with a corollary element of portraying current assignment practices and beliefs related to writing. The outcome will be a brief report (5-10 pages) to the sponsoring department, shared and discussed in a meeting or workshop; the report will provide information for consideration by the department.

Project Teams

Doug Hesse, Writing Program Director, will coordinate a project team for each participating department:

- ❧ Two faculty from the department, each of whom will receive an honorarium of \$750. At least one of the participating faculty members should be tenured.
- ❧ Two writing program lecturers who will assist with data gathering, analysis, and writing.
- ❧ Two students majoring in the department (preferably undergraduates), who will help with interviews and with developing interview and survey questions. (Student researchers will receive a stipend of \$250 for their efforts.)

Data to be Gathered (will vary from setting to setting and be negotiated by teams)

- ❧ Faculty questionnaires about current uses of writing in their classes
- ❧ Interviews of a sample of juniors and seniors about their writing experiences in major courses and in general education
- ❧ Sample of student writings from major courses
- ❧ Interviews of faculty about student writing and working with student writers
- ❧ Interviews with selected recent graduates (if possible) about the kinds of writing they currently do

Timeline

- September 21: Consideration of proposals begins
- By October 5: Student team members chosen and project Teams have first meeting
- By October 19: Explanation of projects to faculty (perhaps 10 minutes in a faculty meeting?)
- October and early November: Data gathering
- November and December: Report drafting
- January 2009: Sharing and discussion of results with departmental or program faculty (The Writing Program would be pleased to host a lunchtime gathering, for example.)

To apply, department/school chairs or directors should send a brief, one-paragraph statement of interest to Doug Hesse, at the address below. (E-mail or attachment is fine.) The proposing paragraph should name the departmental faculty who would be involved in the project and should include a sentence or two about the department's stake or interest in the project's findings. Consideration of proposals will begin September 21 and continue until all project sites are identified.

For More Information or to Submit a Proposal, Contact

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<http://www.du.edu/writing>