

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA
CENTER FOR WRITING EXCELLENCE
SUMMER 2008 REPORT

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July 30, 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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intellectual, social, civic, and cultural experiences, and offering assistance to businesses and schools” (p.7). The program seeks to improve the literacy skills of regional students, especially those who may enter UNA, while helping combat the local dropout rate.

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

Location

During the Summer term, there were no classes scheduled in Stone Lodge 2. As a result, tutorial hours were held Monday through Friday from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm without interruption. Plans to convert the classroom into a service space with a Director’s Office are underway, hopefully to be completed in time for the Fall 2008 term.

Budget

The university paid \$1342.20 to employ four tutors during each of the two Summer terms. According to Self-Service Banner, the director was paid \$6668.75, or 10% of salary, including benefits and social security. A budget for the 2008-2009 academic year has been proposed.

Personnel

The University Writing Center was opened for 30 hours per week during each session, and was staffed by

In Summer 2008, use rates for visitors went from 171% in June to 134% in July. The June rate is comparable to the October, January, February, and March rates from the past academic year, while the

English Department Courses (EN 099 and EN 112) still outnumber tutorials for students in most other departments and colleges, but the Department of Management and Marketing and the College of Nursing, with the Presidential Mentors Academy, have maintained a strong presence. Tutorials offered to College of Business students were mostly requested by graduate students in the MBA program. In the College of Nursing, m

In the Writing Tutorial evaluations, students were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with 8 statements, recording their answers on a Likert scale of 1-5, where 1 is completely disagree and 5 is completely agree. Not Applicable (NA) was offered as an alternative response. In Summer 2008, 201 responses were collected. Figure 11 provides the average scores for each statement.

Writing Tutorial Evaluation Survey Results			
Statement	Fall 2007	Spring 2008	Summer 2008
The Writing Center atmosphere is welcoming and comfortable.	4.92	4.9	4.97

Students continue to verify the University Writing Center's active and valuable role in providing supplemental writing instruction and assistance. It has received the continued approval of the students who used its tutorial services.

Retention

As part of its goal to "Foster a Strong University Community," the university recognizes that "provision of appropriate academic and support facilities...are important parts of maintaining a strong campus

For the 2008-2009 Academic Year, goals should be set at the same levels for EN 099 and Project OPEN, but the ESL goal should be increased to 30% of the 2007-2008 population, or roughly 126 students.

Workshops

Workshops continue to play an integral part of University Writing Center outreach. In Summer 2008, 9 workshops and orientations reached a closely estimated 109 students, as shown in Figure 14. These numbers represent just over one-third the orientations and workshops offered each semester, reaching just under one-quarter the student body.

Writing Center Orientations and Workshops				
Date	Topic	Course	Attendance/ Enrollment	Location

instructional. In addition, surveys were not administered to the Independent research discussion group in Psychology or to the final Presidential Mentors Academy workshop. The results of the workshop evaluations are provided in Figure 15.

Writing Tutorial Evaluation Survey Results				
Statement	Average Scores			
Workshop Dates	06/05	06/12	07/03	07/21
This workshop / Presentation provided me with valuable information	5	4.867	4.75	5
This workshop / presentation provided me with useful information for other classes during my UNA career.	5	4.8	4.583	5
The presenter delivered the information clearly.	5	4.867	4.5	5
I would attend a Writing Center workshop / Presentation again.	4.78	4.6	4.42	4.33
I would recommend this presentation to friends.	5	4.53	4.5	5
I would recommend the Writing Center to friends.	5	4.53	4.583	5
Average Score	4.9	4.4	4.6	4.9
Evaluations Collected	9	15	11	3

- Develop the grant proposal for a Reading Academic Discourse transition program (junior year of high school through sophomore year of college)
- Assess the effectiveness of the FHS Writing Center and adjust processes

Academic-