What does the Writing Center do for students?
For most projects, writers and consultants meet for 45 to 50 minutes. These interactive discussions are designed to help writers make informed decisions about their writing. Although we focus on one project (or portion of a project) in each session, our overall goal is for writers to learn strategies that can transfer to all of their work. Each session is tailored to the needs of the writer, with the emphasis on teaching.

What online support is available?
In Fall 2020, the Writing Center will offer solely online support in synchronous sessions. Information about creating appointments is below. We also have a Virtual Information Desk (VID) for quick questions, information about scheduling, and other needs, accessible via the Writing Center WebEx room.

Is online tutoring really effective?
Although we prefer to welcome students into our sunny physical space, we are working hard to recreate the same helpful, personal support while remaining safe.

How do students make appointments?
We use an online system created for tutoring centers called WCONline, which is also used by the Tutoring Resource Center and the Ancell Commons. The system is accessed through the Writing Center website (wcsu.edu/writingcenter). After students create an account, they can log in through any computer or mobile device to schedule and modify their own appointments. If space is available, we can also accept "walk-in" appointments. When it's time for an appointment, students simply return to the scheduling system and click one button to join the session.

Are appointments required?
Appointments are strongly encouraged, as we do have a limited schedule, but we accept walk-ins if the time is available. Except in special circumstances, students may schedule up to two appointments per week, one appointment per day, and up to six weeks in advance.

Does a writer need to provide a full draft?
No! We help at any stage of the writing process: understanding assignments; brainstorming and expanding ideas; developing a thesis, claim, or research question; evaluating and incorporating sources; outlining and organizing drafts; documenting and citing sources (current versions of MLA, APA, Chicago, ASA, and others); strengthening grammar and mechanics; and other customized forms of support.

Do consultants write papers for students or act as proofreaders?
The Writing Center abides by the WCSU Academic Honesty Policy. We use a mix of directive and non-directive strategies to help writers do their own work. Consultants do not simply “fix” or proofread papers. The ultimate responsibility for the final product always remains with the writer.
Is the Writing Center only for good writers? or bad writers?
The Writing Center is for all WCSU students from any major, any course, freshmen through graduate students. All writers benefit from feedback, from the least experienced to the most advanced. Working with fellow writers is an important part of the writing process. Learning to write well takes a lifetime.

Who works in the Writing Center?
The Writing Center is staffed by peer consultants: juniors, seniors, and graduate students from a range of majors. The application process includes a writing sample, faculty recommendations, and interviews with both the Coordinator and current consultants. Typically we have 12 to 15 writing consultants.

How are the student consultants trained?
In their first semester of work, consultants participate in up to 15 hours of intensive education. The entire team meets weekly to discuss advanced strategies, current writing center research, and other special topics, and meets for special-topic professional development workshops during the semester. In addition, consultants attend and often present at the Northeast Writing Centers Association and the International Writing Centers Association Conferences.

Is there also a Writing Lab on campus? 
No. In 2014, the Writing Lab was moved to Haas Library from Berkshire Hall and renamed the Writing Center, which is the more common term for sites of writing support on campuses.

How will I know if my student comes to the Writing Center?
Students have the choice of whether their instructor is notified of the visit. If the student chooses to notify, we send a follow-up email to the instructor from the Writing Center email account. Otherwise, the visit is kept confidential.

Can I require my students to visit or offer extra credit?
At this time, we are unable to accommodate a full class of students to visit on a single assignment. Although we offer a generous range of hours, we also cannot guarantee every student will have equal access to required or extra credit opportunities. If you have a specific concern that applies to your entire class, it may be possible to arrange a special workshop. If you plan to require several students to visit, please email the Writing Center in advance.

What can I do to help students get the most from their visit?
Please provide students with a clear, written assignment sheet. If you know you will have many students visiting, you may also email your assignment to us, with any specific notes.

How do I encourage my students to visit the Writing Center?
During the regular school year, staff members from the Writing Center are available to visit your class (schedule dependent) and present a 10-minute introduction of our services. To arrange a visit, please email a request to writingcenter@wcsu.edu. You may also include this paragraph in your syllabus.

Please take advantage of the free services offered at the Writing Center. Getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. The Writing Center offers one-to-one tutoring services that address everything from brainstorming and developing outlines to writing strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, visit the Writing Center website at wcsu.edu/writingcenter.

Fall 2020 Hours

**Appointments and walk-in sessions**
Monday & Wednesday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Tuesday & Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sunday, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
Closed Friday and Saturday

**Virtual Information Desk**
Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
*(closed 10-11 on Wednesday for Team Meeting)*

Sunday, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.