



# Writing Program Administration

*Journal of the  
Council of Writing Program Administrators*

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The Council of Writing Program Administrators is a national association of college and university faculty who serve or have served as directors of first year composition or writing programs, coordinators of writing centers and writing workshops, chairpersons and members of writing-program-related committees, or in similar administrative capacities. The Council of Writing Program Administrators is an affiliate of the Association of American Colleges and the Modern Language Association.

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## Author's Guide

*WPA: Writing Program Administration* publishes articles and essays concerning the organization, administration, practices, and aims of college and university writing programs. Possible topics include the education and support of writing teachers; the intellectual and administrative work of WPAs; the situation of writing programs within both academic institutions and broader contexts; the programmatic implications of current theories, technologies, and research; relationships between WPAs and other administrators and between writing and other academic programs; placement; assessment; and the professional status of WPAs.

The previous list is meant to be suggestive, not exhaustive, but contributions must be appropriate to the interests and concerns of those who administer writing programs. The editors welcome empirical research (quantitative as well as qualitative), historical research, and theoretical, essayistic, or reflective pieces.

The length of submissions should be approximately 2000 to 5000 words, although the journal occasionally will publish shorter or longer pieces when the subject matter warrants. Articles should be suitably documented using the current MLA Style Manual. Please submit three copies of manuscripts, with the author identified only on a separate cover letter. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a copy returned. Submissions are anonymously reviewed by the Editorial Board. The editors aspire to respond within three months after the receipt of the submission.

WPA publishes reviews of books related to writing programs and their administration. Publishers are invited to send appropriate professional books to Dennis Lynch, who assigns reviews.

Authors whose works are accepted for publication will be asked to submit final versions in both print and electronic form. Articles should be saved on 3.5 inch disks as text files (files using the extension .txt). Tables should be saved in the program in which they were produced; authors should indicate program type on the disk. Illustrations should be submitted as camera-ready-copy. Authors will also be asked to submit a 100-word biography for inclusion in the "Notes on Contributors" section of the journal.

Relevant announcements and calls for papers are also acceptable. Announcement deadlines are: Fall/Winter issue, October 15; Spring issue, March 15.

Advertisers should contact Marguerite Helmers for deadlines and publication rates.

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## **WPA Consultant-Evaluator Service for Writing Programs**

The WPA consultant-evaluator service helps colleges and universities develop and assess their writing programs. Operating on a method similar to regional accreditation agencies, WPA evaluations have several stages. WPA requests a written program self-study, sends a team of two trained consultant-evaluators to campus for interviews and on-site evaluation, and then compiles a final report. A six-month follow-up report from the campus completes the process.

WPA consultant-evaluators are leaders in the field of composition. They come from four-year colleges, community colleges, and universities. All are experienced writing program administrators with a national perspective on composition teaching and program administering. As evaluators, their primary goal is to determine a program's unique strengths and weaknesses, not to transform all writing programs into clones of their own. They recognize that every program must retain its individual character, serve a particular community, and solve special problems.

Institutions pay the travel and accommodations cost for the consultant-evaluator team, plus an honorarium. While WPA suggests a \$1,500 honorarium to each consultant-evaluator, client institutions agree on a honorarium with the consultant-evaluator.

Applications for the service should be initiated three months before consultant-evaluators visit a campus. WPAs, department chairs, or college administrators may apply to:



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## Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

As you know from the Council of Writing Program Administrators *President's Newsletter* (February 1999), the organization is thriving. It feels good to contribute to its growth.

We are very excited about the spring issue, our second as editors. Three of the four articles came from the WPA conference last summer (so thoughtfully hosted by Theresa Enos and her colleagues in Tucson), and the fourth article is the result of a WPA Research Grant. While the WPA organization sponsors research and reflection upon the profession, the journal can disseminate that work to a wide audience. Furthermore, we hope this issue provides a bridge to the upcoming conference (hosted by our colleagues at Purdue University). The questions that concerned us at last year's summer conference (the paradoxes of professionalization, the exploitation of part-time faculty, and trans/forming WPA identities) will lead into the questions that will face us this summer: "Whose interests do—or should—writing programs serve? What are—or should be—the interests (even self-interests) of those involved in writing program administration?"

We look forward to seeing you in West Lafayette.

Marguerite Helmers  
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Dennis Lynch  
Michigan Technological University

**The WPA Summer Conference, July 15-18, 1999**  
Purdue University, West Lafayette Indiana

*The Interests of the WPA*

The 1999 Council of Writing Program Administrators Annual Summer Workshop and Conference will be held at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

The Workshop, an intensive four-day experience for new and re-newing WPA's co-led by Doug Hesse and Martha Townsend, will begin with a reception Sunday evening, July 11, and with formal sessions Monday morning, July 12; it will end on Thursday afternoon, July 15. For information on the Workshop, contact Doug Hesse at [ddhesse@ilstu.edu](mailto:ddhesse@ilstu.edu).

The Conference will open on Thursday evening, July 15, and conclude at noon on Sunday, July 18. Accommodations will be available at the Purdue Memorial Union Club Hotel and at Young Graduate House. The Purdue Memorial Union Club is a large, full-service hotel right on campus adjacent to Stewart Center, the building where the Workshop and conference sessions will be held. Rooms at one of the graduate residence halls will also be available. The Graduate Houses are just across the street from the Stewart Center.

Purdue is one hour north of Indianapolis and about two and a half hours south of Chicago. If you have any questions about reservations or local arrangements for the conference, contact Irwin Weiser or Shirley Rose, Local Arrangements Co-Chairs.

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*Extending an invitation to join the*  
Council of  
Writing Program Administrators

*The Council of Writing Program Administrators offers a national network of scholarship and support for leaders of college and university writing programs.*

**Membership Benefits include:**

- A subscription to *WPA: Writing Program Administration*, a semi-annual refereed journal
- Invitations to the annual WPA Summer Workshops and Conferences
- Invitations to submit papers for sessions that WPA sponsors at MLA and CCCC
- Participation in the WPA Research Grant Program, which distributes several \$1000 to \$2000 awards
- Invitations to the annual WPA breakfast at CCCC and the annual WPA party at MLA
- Information about the WPA Consultant-Evaluator program

**Annual Dues**

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