

GRADUATE-LEVEL ACADEMIC WRITING

Lisa Russell-Pinson, Ph.D.

Faculty Associate for Writing, Center for Graduate Life

Key Concepts

Definition of Academic Writing:

Academic writing is a social practice concerning the display, evaluation, construction and negotiation of knowledge within academic disciplines. (pp. 3-5)

Condensed from Hyland, K. (2004). *Disciplinary Discourses: Social Interaction in Academic Writing*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

Academic Writing in Graduate School:

Writing at the graduate level requires...

- Developing and demonstrating expertise for professional peers.
- Participating in an exchange of ideas with professionals in your field.
- Conducting primary research through the collection of data and presenting that data in accurate and relevant ways.
- Conducting secondary research from specialized sources, e.g., journals & edited volumes.
- Using discipline-specific language features and style, including appropriate citation style.

Drawn from Portland State University Writing Center. (n.d.). Graduate Research Writing. Retrieved on August 11, 2016 at: http://www.writingcenter.pdx.edu/resources/grad_library.php?grad_research.html.

Common Written Genres in Academic English

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|------------------------|--|
| ○ Research articles | ○ Research proposals |
| ○ Review articles | ○ Dissertations and theses |
| ○ Conference abstracts | ○ Lab reports |
| ○ Grant proposals | ○ Institutional Review Board (IRB) paperwork |
| ○ Book reviews | ○ Conference posters |
| ○ Qualifying exams | ○ Scholarship/fellowship applications |
| ○ Peer reviews | ○ Research performance progress reports |

Drawn and expanded from Hyland, K. (2009). *Academic Discourse: English in a Global Context*. New York, NY: Continuum International Publishing Group.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism is "intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source)...Plagiarism is the act of copying someone else's work, borrowing someone else's ideas, or reusing your own ideas verbatim."

UNC-Charlotte states, "The best way to avoid plagiarism is to simply 'give credit, when credit is due.' Provide proper citation in both oral and written works when using:

- another person's idea, opinion, or theory;
- any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings—any pieces of information—that are not common knowledge;
- quotations of another person's actual spoken or written words;
- paraphrase of another person's spoken or written words (Indiana University, 2004)."

Center for Teaching and Learning, UNC Charlotte. (n.d.). Academic Honesty and Integrity. Retrieved on August 11, 2016 at: <http://teaching.uncc.edu/articles-books/best-practice-articles/academic-honesty-integrity>.

Resources for Graduate-Level Writing at UNC Charlotte

Center for Graduate Life (CGL): Cone 268

- **Writing-Based Courses:**

- GRAD 6010/8010 *Graduate-Level Writing for International Students*
This course is designed to benefit English as a second language (ESL) graduate students. It serves as an introduction to concepts central to graduate-level writing in the United States, such as academic integrity, audience awareness, discipline-specific variation in writing norms and culture, and rhetorical purpose. Students will draft and revise texts appropriate for their disciplines. (3 credit hours; P/F)
- GRAD 6011/8011 *Research Writing* **NEW in Spring 2018!**
This course is designed to benefit graduate students who are actively writing empirical journal articles, theses and dissertations. Attention will be given to both producing features of effective research writing and implementing strategies to successfully produce such writing. NB: There are no pre-requisites for native English-speaking Masters and doctoral students; however, for English-as-a-second-language Masters and doctoral students to enroll in the course, they must have either taken GRAD 6010/8010 or have permission of the instructor. (3 credit hours; P/F)
- GRAD 6030 *Workplace Communications*
This course is designed to help students develop the necessary writing and speaking skills in order to be successful in the workplace. Among the topics that will be addressed include: how to write more clearly, how to summarize and how to present information in a business setting. (1 credit hour)
- GRAD 6151/8151 *Professional Communications*
Principles and useful techniques for effective oral presentations, poster presentations, scientific writing, use of references and avoiding plagiarism. Students in the course critique and help revise each other's presentations and learn how to avoid common pitfalls. In addition, students learn how to properly organize and run a meeting. Students prepare a CV, job application letter, and job talk. (1 credit hour; cross-listed as BINF 6151/8151)

- **Writing Presentations and Workshops:**

- On various topics related to academic writing, grant writing, resume writing, etc.
- More information will follow at <http://gradlife.uncc.edu/events>

- **Dissertation Writing Consultations** with Dr. Lisa Russell-Pinson, Faculty Associate for Writing:

- One-on-one support for dissertation writers to
 - Improve their academic writing skills
 - Understand the dissertation process
 - Work more effectively with their chairs and committee members
 - Manage their time and set realistic writing goals
 - Deal effectively with issues related to procrastination, perfectionism and impostor syndrome
- Email lpinson@uncc.edu to schedule an appointment.

- **Dissertation Boot Camps:**

- Structured writing time and writing support for dissertation students
- More information will follow at <http://gradlife.uncc.edu/events>

- **Dissertation Support Groups** (co-sponsored by the Graduate School and the Counseling Center):

- Professional and peer support for dissertation writers
- More information will follow at <http://gradlife.uncc.edu/events>

- **Online Writing Resources:** <http://gradlife.uncc.edu/resources/writing>

Writing Resources Center (WRC): Cameron 124 (main location), Atkins 109 & Cone 268 (CGL)

- **Writing Consultations:**

- Schedule a 45-minute appointment by signing up online: <http://writing.uncc.edu/writing-resources-center/schedule-appointment>
- Bring both your assignment and paper.
- Set your expectations: "Our goal is not to fix papers, but to develop better writers."
- Don't wait until the last minute to schedule an appointment!