

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Writing and English Resources for Graduate Students



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1 May 2007
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March 19, 2008

Resources for Graduate Students

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FOR ALL STUDENTS

The Learning Assistance Service

The Learning Assistance Service is the academic support unit of the UMCP Counseling Center. LAS exists to help students achieve their academic goals by providing a range of services. All LAS services are free to UMCP students. You may meet individually with one of the counselors who will help you explore your academic strengths and needs and help you develop a plan to meet your goals.

Contact LAS to schedule an individual appointment at 301-314-7693, visit their office at 2201 Shoemaker Building, College Park MD, 20742, or go to <http://www.counseling.umd.edu/LAS/> for more information

Workshops are offered periodically by LAS. For information on various upcoming workshops offered by LAS, go to <http://www.counseling.umd.edu/LAS/html/workshops.html>

Dissertation Support Group

Many bright and otherwise capable graduate students somehow reach a "deadlock" while working through the dissertation process. Some students feel overwhelmed by the size or scope of this academic task. Many experience difficulties balancing their competing personal, professional and academic roles. Others may appear to procrastinate due to actual underlying concerns about graduating and facing the "real" world. Whatever the reason, this "deadlock" problem plagues graduate students everywhere. Because of the pervasiveness of this "dissertation deadlock problem," staff at the Learning Assistance Service have developed dissertation support groups specifically designed to help students:

- build skills relevant to completing the dissertation
- explore concerns associated with graduating
- subdivide the task into manageable goals
- complete their research projects

Staff do not advise students regarding the content of the dissertation; that is clearly the domain of the faculty advisor and the academic department. Rather, the goal is to alleviate difficulties regarding the process of completing the dissertation.

Support groups meet in the Learning Assistance Service of the Counseling Center, Shoemaker Building. Groups meet Bi-weekly throughout the calendar year. They are free to all UMCP graduate students who are working on either a master's thesis or a doctoral dissertation.

To join a dissertation support group, call (301) 314-7693 and schedule an

appointment. For more information please visit
<http://www.counseling.umd.edu/LAS/html/dsg.html>

Graduate School Ph.D. Completion Effort Workshops

Periodically, the Graduate School hosts workshops in which guest speakers provide guidance and assistance with different aspects of dissertation completion. For example, a workshop held on March 30 focused on effective introductions and discussions, and preparing articles for journal submission and publication. Strategies for writing and models of successful writing were presented.

News about upcoming workshops is sent out on the graduate school listserv. If you are not receiving these emails, be sure that your university email address is up-to-date:
<http://www.testudo.umd.edu/Registrar.html>

If your email address is up-to-date and you still are not receiving these emails, contact Johnetta G. Davis at jgdavis@deans.umd.edu.

More information about the workshops may also be obtained by visiting the following webpage:
<http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/grrd/workshops/index.htm>

International Coffee Hours

On a weekly to biweekly basis, International Educational Services hosts a coffee hour in the ground floor lounge of Dorchester Hall. Free coffee and snacks are offered as international and American students gather together and socialize.

For more information and a full calendar of upcoming events, go to: <http://www.international.umd.edu/ies/events.cfm>, visit The International Education Services Office at 3116 Mitchell Building, or call 301-314-7740.

Editing Services

University of Maryland graduate students from across campus offer editing services for a fee. Check bulletin boards or call the Freshman Writing Program, Department of English, at 301-405-3771.

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Courses offered through the Maryland English Institute (MEI)

MEI offers many courses to support international students. Please note that tuition remission can not be applied to MEI courses and the courses generally do not carry credit towards any degree at the University.

Below is a sample of course listings. Visit <http://www.testudo.umd.edu/ScheduleOfClasses.html> or <http://www.international.umd.edu/mei/534> for updated course schedules and descriptions

UMEI001 English as a Foreign Language: Beginning; (12 credits) Grade Method: S-F. Intensive course for the non-native speaker of English who has little or no previous knowledge of English. Focus on the rapid acquisition of the basic features of English grammar and pronunciation and on speaking and understanding American English; reading and writing appropriate to the level will be included. Special fee required for this course.

UMEI002 English as a Foreign Language: Intermediate I; (12 credits) Intensive course for the non-native speaker of English who has had some previous instruction in English. Emphasis on improving listening and speaking skills, on mastering intermediate grammatical structures, and on expanding vocabulary. Includes practice in reading and writing appropriate to the level.

UMEI003 (PermReq) English as a Foreign Language: Intermediate II; (12 credits) Intensive course for the non-native speaker of English who has mastered the essential structures of English grammar. Emphasis on improving communicative skills for a wide range of linguistic situations, on rapid expansion of vocabulary, and on improving reading comprehension and basic writing skills. Special fee required for this course. This course does not carry credit towards any degree at the University and does not count in the retention plan. See Director, UMEI, 1121 Holzapfel. Student not permitted to enroll in any other course work

UMEI004 (PermReq) English as a Foreign Language: Intermediate III; (12 credits) Intensive course for the non-native speaker of English who has a good command of the basic features of spoken and written English. Emphasis on refining speaking and listening skills, on improving reading speed and comprehension of academic texts, and on developing writing skills for academic courses.

UMEI005 Advanced English as a Foreign Language; (6 credits) Semi-intensive course for the nearly proficient non-native speaker of English needing additional language instruction prior to undertaking full-time academic study. Speaking and listening skills; improvement of reading speed and comprehension; and development of writing skills. Special fee required for this course.

For more information about the Maryland English Institute and how to apply, please visit:

<http://www.international.umd.edu/sparkplug/sites/mei/>

Editing Programs for International Graduate Students

In addition to the courses listed above, the Maryland English Institute (MEI) also offers writing and editing assistance for international students through the Writing Center. Please visit <http://www.mei.umd.edu> or call 301-405-8634 for more information on this service.

The English Editing Program for International Graduate Students (EEIGS) offers a free program staffed by volunteer editors. For more information about this program, contact the Office of Graduate Recruitment, Retention, and Diversity at 301-405-4183 or visit <http://www.english.umd.edu/programs/WritingCenterWebsite/EEIGSPage.htm>.

ESOL Conversation Program

Would you like to improve your spoken English? Make new friends? Learn more about American culture and customs?

Join the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Conversation Program, in the Learning Assistance Service Center. The purpose of the program is to help international students improve their English speaking abilities. Session times are flexible and are determined by participants' own schedules.

Conversation Groups

Meet weekly with an English speaking group leader and other ESOL participants for ninety minute discussions of American values and customs, university life, and current events. Group leaders may also teach English pronunciation, idioms, and vocabulary. Participants' schedules determine session times and locations.

Conversation Partners

Talk one-on-one with a volunteer partner to increase your English fluency. Participants' schedules determine session times and locations.

Who may participate?

Any international student, faculty / staff member, or visiting scholar at the University of Maryland may register at no charge. Students who are not members of the University of Maryland community must pay a \$75 fee to enroll.

Contact Information

If you have questions about these and similar programs, please contact Camille Hoff at choff2008@rhsmith.umd.edu or 301- 314 -7693 / 5919.

Visit http://www.counseling.umd.edu/LAS/html/esol_program.html for the program information and schedule.