

**THE SCHOLARS' CORNER**  
**BULLETIN ~ September 5, 2018**

**Special Issue: The Writing Edition**  
**Guest Contributor: Erin Strickland**

**Dates & Deadlines:**

September 20: Last day for graduate students to file [Graduation Application](#) for fall graduation.

November 26: Last day for master's and doctoral comprehensive examination or thesis/dissertation defense if the student plans to graduate fall 2018; last day for approval of thesis, dissertation, or professional paper (if the professional paper is submitted to the library) by the [Formatting Advisor](#).

[Click here to review future deadlines.](#)

**About the Writing Center's Graduate Program Coordinator**

Erin Strickland began working at the Writing Center in 2016 after teaching English as a Second Language for eight years. She received her master's degree from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies where she studied linguistics, education, and writing. For her, writing is never at its best when done alone. She believes that talking and thinking and writing with input from others is the best way to develop as a writer. Her role at the Writing Center is focused on building relationships with graduate students and professors while providing spaces for writers to think, work and, of course, write in.

**Interdisciplinary Writing Groups**

Joining an interdisciplinary writing group provides an opportunity to grow as a writer in all the ways that these students have mentioned. Not only will you get feedback on your work, a weekly meeting will give you accountability to meet deadlines, a chance to meet other students working through the same challenges, and an ability to stretch your modes of thinking. With consistent feedback, you will learn how to better convey information in ways that resonate with readers. When students commit to the group, it becomes a supportive community that can be rewarding and rejuvenating.



If you want to be placed in a group, fill out this [google form](#) and you will be contacted with more information. If you would like to learn more about interdisciplinary writing groups, don't hesitate to contact Erin at [erin.strickland@montana.edu](mailto:erin.strickland@montana.edu).

What past group members have said:

*"I really wanted a sense of accountability to help me stay focused and continue to move forward writing and meeting deadlines, and have some sort of consistent human interaction while writing, so as not to become a crazy lady who speaks only to her cats."*

*"It really did feel like a writing community - it was nice to be able to talk to other people on a weekly basis who were also writing."*

*"Talking about my group members' work periodically provided a really nice and necessary break from my own work."*

*"Good job Graduate School and the Writing Center! Thanks a lot to Erin for her great suggestions/feedback! Thanks a lot to my writing partners for their important help and responsibility toward our group."*

### **Online and face-to-face appointments**

The Writing Center offers both online and face-to-face tutoring appointments for graduate students. To schedule an appointment, go to the Writing Center [website](#) and click on "Schedule a Session." If you have never done so before, you must first make an account.

Once you have an account, click on any open time slot (white spaces) and choose either "face to face" or "online" from the drop down menu.

We have two locations, so if you have a face-to-face-appointment, you will meet either in Wilson Hall 1-114 or the Library. If you are meeting online, go back into the scheduling system and click on your appointment block at the time of your session. Then find the "join the appointment" link. From there, you will find instructions on the main part of the interface instructing you how to share your document with your tutor.

Each appointment block is 45 minutes, but because graduate work tends to be complex, feel free to schedule yourself for two back-to-back sessions.

## Focus Fridays

We will again be offering workshops and open writing time for graduate students. Workshops happen three times a semester and are held at the Innovative Learning Studio (ILS) at the Library. At each meeting, a Writing Center tutor will give a short presentation on various writing topics. After the presentation, tutors will be available to answer questions and work one-on-one with writers on their individual projects. We'll have coffee and bagels and be ready to work through a dissertation, a job application, or a personal statement.



The workshops are scheduled from 9 am to noon, and writers should feel free to drop in at any point. Dates for fall semester Focus Fridays are:

September 14  
October 12  
November 9

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## Professional Development Opportunity for Graduate Students

### [MSU Writing Center is Hiring a Graduate Tutor](#)

**Applications will be reviewed starting August 24**

The Writing Center is currently seeking graduate students from any discipline who are excited to learn about writing and communication within multiple disciplines, to work one-on-one with graduate writers, and to facilitate graduate writing groups. This is a \$14/hour paid position and requires a commitment of 10-18 hours/week. This is not an assistantship position; tuition and fees are not covered. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and one professional reference to [erin.strickland@montana.edu](mailto:erin.strickland@montana.edu).

## Workshops for Graduate Students

### [Introduction to R for Data Analytics](#)

**September 10 from 2:30 – 5:00 pm**

**Renne Library, Heathcote Classroom**

Learn the basics of R, one of the most-used languages of data analytics. The workshop will start by loading data into R, and then attendees will learn to inspect, extract, manipulate, summarize, and visualize the data. The group will also discuss of how packages developed for R can be accessed and used. The workshop will be presented in RStudio (an interface for working with R). Register [here](#) soon; this workshop fills up quickly!

### **Excel Basics (Level I)**

**September 12 from 5:00 – 6:00 pm**

**Renne Library, Heathcote Classroom**

Learn the basics of Excel, from general spreadsheet formatting, data formatting (% , \$, etc.), using formulas and functions, referencing cells in formulas, inserting and formatting charts, and printing.

### **Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) Workshop**

**October 2, 2018 from 3:00 – 4:00 pm**

**Renne Library, Innovative Learning Studio**

The Graduate School and the MSU library partner each term to present an ETD workshop. Graduate Students are invited to join a discussion to learn about how their research is archived at the Library and other library data services. [Click here](#) to view information about the event.