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Faculty Learning Communities

Fall 2021

First Year Students' Use of the Writing Center in Fall 2020

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First Year Students' Use of The Writing Center in Fall 2020

Rebecca Todd

Director of the Writing Center
2020 FLC on First Year Students



WC First Years Services Larger Overview

For context, the table below gives a comparison of the last four years of the Writing Center annual visitor totals broken down by class year.

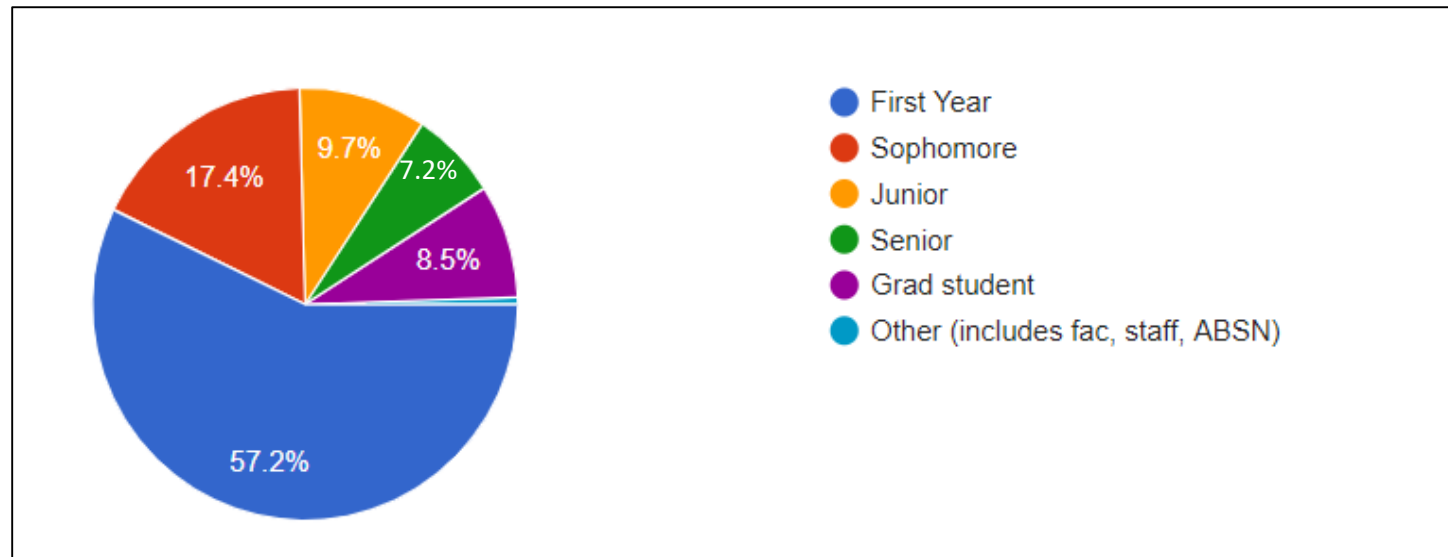
	AY 2021	AY 2020	AY 2019	AY 2018
First Year	633 (53%)	852 (55%)	950 (57%)	814 (46.4%)
Sophomore	218 (18%)	354 (23%)	289 (17%)	318 (18%)
Junior	139 (12%)	126 (8%)	171 (10%)	186 (10%)
Senior	85 (7%)	97 (6%)	135 (8%)	162 (9%)
Graduate	119 (10%)	86 (6%)	116 (7%)	258 (14.6%)
Faculty/Staff/Other	8 (<1%)	34 (2%)	8 (1%)	34 (2%)



Fall 2020 First Years Services Overview

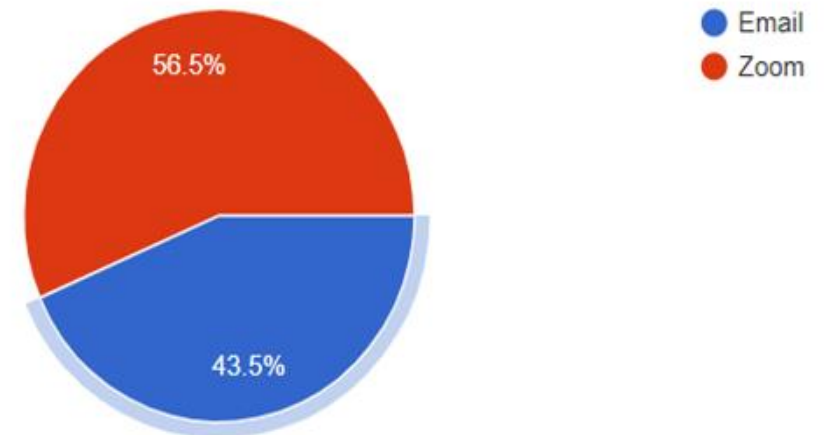
The Writing Center (WC) held virtual-only sessions in the pandemic-affected Fall 2020 and held substantially fewer sessions overall. While class year distributions were generally similar to those of previous years, we did see a higher percentage for First Year students, with 57.2% of F20 sessions held with First Years compared to 51% per an average Fall.

The WC received 343 tutoring requests from First Years, representing 167 unique students.



WC F20 First Years By Tutoring Method

In F20, all WC services were held remotely. Across all class years, the Zoom/email percentages (56.5% to 43.5%) showed a preference for Zoom meetings. For First Years, the split echoed the overall preferences, with 192 (56%) Zoom appointments and 151 (44%) email appointments.



WC F20 First Years By College

First Years visiting the Writing Center in Fall 2020 came from majors from all four colleges, with the following percentages.

College	F20 First Years	F20 All Class Years
Arts and Sciences	33%	32%
Professional Sciences	29%	25%
Williams Business	15%	17%
Nursing	12%	15%
Exploratory	11%	11%



WC F20 First Years By Course Request

The 100-level writing-intensive Core courses within English, History, Theology and Philosophy figured prominently in requests by First Year visitors to the Center. With the additions of Nurs 130 and Core 100, these courses totaled 87% of all requests by First Years in the Fall.

COURSE	# of requests	% of FY total
ENGL 101	101 (ironically)	29.4%
HIST 181	67	19.5%
PHIL 100	49	14.3%
THEO 111	30	9.0%
NURS 130	20	6.0%
CORE 100	18	5.0%
ENGL 115	15	4.0%



WC F20 First Years Session Topics Overview

WC tutoring sessions cover Development, Revision/Style, and Grammar/Mechanics categories. Each session may touch on several topics. Most sessions include elements of self-editing strategies, but the WC also offers sessions devoted exclusively to building those skills.

(The F20 session topic breakdown for First Years is in black below; the breakdown for all class years is offered in red for comparison.)

Development		Revision/Style		Grammar/Mechanics	
Understanding an assignment	11% (9%)	Refining purpose or thesis	9% (7%)	Format and layout	10% (17%)
Planning a writing strategy	7% (6%)	Developing ideas or content	7% (6%)	Grammar	21% (37%)
Generating ideas	9% (8%)	Improving clarity	18% (22%)	Punctuation	15% (20%)
Formulating thesis	18% (14%)	Tone and voice	3% (5%)	Usage	3% (6%)
Developing an outline	15% (13%)	Integrating sources	6% (6%)	Citation	16% (22%)
Organizing materials/ideas	11% (12%)	Audience analysis	2% (4%)	Non-primary language focus	--- (<1%)
Introduction	6% (6%)	Flow and transitions	17% (15%)	Self-editing strategies	3% (6%)
Conclusion	10% (9%)				



ALL FOR ONE

Thanks to our FLC facilitators Annie Ray and Kelly Austin, and to my FLC colleagues. --RT