

JOHN S. KNIGHT INSTITUTE FOR WRITING IN THE DISCIPLINES

The John S. Knight Institute provides academic writing support for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as speaking support to multilingual domestic and international graduate and professional students across all Cornell schools and colleges. The program administers first-year writing seminars and offers tutorial-based writing courses, seminars in the teaching of writing, and writing and speaking courses for multilingual graduate and professional students. The program also supports upper-level courses across the university. In addition to courses, the Knight Institute provides tutoring services, writing workshops, a conversational English program, and curricular support for faculty who teach writing in designated writing courses or in courses across the curriculum that integrate writing with learning.

Website: <https://knight.as.cornell.edu>

Faculty

The director of the John S. Knight Institute is George Hutchinson, professor in the Department of Literatures in English.

The Knight Institute has 3 campus locations:

- 105 Stimson Hall, (607) 255-2280
- 174 Rockefeller Hall, (607) 255-6349
- 260 Caldwell Hall, (607) 255-5040

T. Carrick (Director, Writing Workshop; Director, Graduate Writing Service), M. Crow (Director, English Language Support Office), D. Faulkner (Director, First-Year Writing Seminars), K. King-O'Brien (Associate Director, Writing in the Majors), N. Lindberg (Senior Lecturer, English Language Support Office), M. Myers (Senior Lecturer, English Language Support Office), K. Navickas (Director, Cornell Writing Centers), J. Sands (Multilingual Writing Specialist), E. Shapiro (Director, Writing in the Majors), B. Zukovic (Senior Lecturer), Scott Sorrell (Lecturer)

Undergraduate Courses

First-Year Writing Seminars

For first-year students, the Knight Institute supports First-Year Writing Seminars—more than 125 different courses in more than 30 different departments in the humanities, social sciences, expressive arts, and sciences. Through introductory work in a particular field of study, seminars help students write effective academic prose—prose that, at its best, is characterized by clarity, coherence, intellectual force, and stylistic control. Students who have not had formal writing instruction in high school, are unfamiliar with academic writing, have serious difficulty with writing assignments or feel a general lack of confidence about their writing should participate in the FWS Writing Consultation offered every semester.

Offerings change from semester to semester. Among the many First-Year Writing Seminars offered each year (see the full list on the Knight Institute website (<https://knight.as.cornell.edu/fws-guidelines/>)), the Knight Institute offers the following:

Code	Title	Hours
WRIT 1340	FWS: An Introduction to Writing in the University	3
WRIT 1370	FWS: Elements of Academic Writing	3
WRIT 1380	FWS: Elements of Academic Writing	3
WRIT 1420	FWS: Research and Rhetoric	3
WRIT 1450	FWS: Communicating Big Ideas: Climate Change Rhetoric	3

Other Undergraduate Courses

Code	Title	Hours
WRIT 1034	Tutorial in Academic Writing	3
WRIT 1037	Tutorial in Academic Writing	3
WRIT 1038	Tutorial in Academic Writing	3
WRIT 1390	Special Topics in Writing	1-3
WRIT 2101	Responding to Writing: Theory and Pedagogy	1
ENGL 2880	Expository Writing	3

Writing in the Majors

Spanning the humanities, social sciences, and sciences, the Knight Institute's upper-level, Writing in the Majors (<http://knight.as.cornell.edu/writing-in-the-majors/>) (WIM) courses offer opportunities for students to focus on writing, usually with guided revision. They also emphasize other forms of active learning that are essential to scholarship and careers in the disciplines. WIM courses do not satisfy formal writing requirements, and faculty participation is entirely voluntary. The Knight Institute provides funding and training for Teaching Assistants in Writing in the Majors courses. WIM courses are offered at every level of the undergraduate curriculum but mostly at the 2000, 3000, and 4000 levels. Course size ranges from small seminars with 20 or fewer students to courses that enroll several hundred. The Knight Institute provides funding and teacher training for Teaching Assistants in WIM courses.

Offerings change from semester to semester.

Graduate Courses

Code	Title	Hours
ELSO 6210	Improving Pronunciation	1
ELSO 6220	Taking Part in Discussions	1
ELSO 6230	Designing and Delivering Effective Presentations	1
ELSO 6515	Preparing to Write Workshop	1
ELSO 6535	Research Paper Writing Workshop	1
ELSO 6565	Thesis and Dissertation Writing Workshop	1
ELSO 6610	Communicating in the Workplace	1
ELSO 6620	Preparing for the Professional Job Search	1
ELSO 6630	Preparing for the Academic Job Search	1
WRIT 7100	Teaching Writing	1
WRIT 7101	Writing in the Majors Seminar	1

Instructional Support

The Knight Institute provides ongoing instructional support for faculty and graduate student instructors across the disciplines who teach writing in First-Year Writing Seminars or Writing in the Majors Courses or in any course across the disciplines that integrates writing with learning. Faculty development opportunities include one-on-one teaching consultations, occasional in-class or departmental workshops, First-Year Writing Seminars instructor workshops, an online newsletter of teaching

tools and tips called the KNIGHTLYnews (<https://knight.as.cornell.edu/knightlynews-notes-fws-classroom/>), and the Faculty Seminar in Writing Instruction (see below). Faculty may also contact Knight's Multilingual Writing Specialist to discuss strategies for supporting international students and multilingual writers.

Faculty working with multilingual domestic and international graduate and professional students may take advantage of resources offered by the English Language Support Office, such as a bibliography on the program website, materials in the program Canvas site, and individual consultations with ELSO faculty.

The Faculty Seminar in Writing Instruction

Every June, the Knight Institute offers a small group of Cornell faculty an opportunity to develop new or refine existing courses. These courses may be designated as writing courses but they need not be. Participants receive a stipend. During this intensive four-day seminar, participants explore frameworks for teaching writing in a range of courses, and collectively review teaching materials.

Tutoring Services

Cornell Writing Centers

The Knight Institute offers tutoring assistance to any student who has questions about writing or a specific piece of writing. Writers can schedule appointments or simply walk in for ongoing support with writing projects. Trained undergraduate and graduate student tutors, all with specialized training and experience working with English language learners, are available during the academic year at campus locations or virtually through our scheduling platform. Learn more or schedule an appointment at the Cornell Writing Centers (<https://knight.as.cornell.edu/wc/>).

Graduate Writing Service

Cornell graduate students, postdocs, and faculty can work with experienced writers and teachers of writing to refine and develop strategies for drafting and revising their writing and teaching materials. Postgraduate writers and teachers of writing can schedule face-to-face meetings or online appointments (using an internet-based video and messaging platform). Tutors can also provide written feedback on drafts through our eTutoring system. Learn more or schedule an appointment at the Graduate Writing Service (<https://knight.as.cornell.edu/gws/>).

Tutoring Services for Multilingual Domestic and International Graduate and Professional Students

In addition to the Graduate Writing Service, multilingual domestic and international graduate and professional students may receive support for writing, presentations, and pronunciation offered by peer tutors trained by the English Language Support Office (ELSO).

For writing and presenting, tutors work with any type of project, including research articles, CVs, resumes, personal statements, statements of purpose, grant proposals, and conference presentations. Tutors can work with clients on all levels, from language to overall structure, and at any step, from brainstorming to finalizing.

For pronunciation, tutors are focused on improving overall intelligibility by identifying areas of difficulty, making a plan to address these areas, and locating relevant resources for ongoing improvement. Pronunciation tutoring sessions may focus on a specific speaking context, such as a presentation, interview, thesis defense, lab report, or elevator speech.

Other Programming

Summer Writing Center

During Cornell's six-week summer session, the Knight Institute offers free, one-on-one writing tutoring for all members of the Cornell community. Writers can either drop in to the writing center or schedule in-person or online appointments. Learn more or schedule an appointment at the Summer Writing Center (<https://knight.as.cornell.edu/wc/>).

Summer Graduate Writing Support

The Knight Institute offers a four-week summer graduate writing program each June. During this session, writers have access to write-ins, writing groups, individual consultations with tutors, and materials on writing process strategies and academic writing. Learn more about this program as well as Knight tutoring services offered in the summer (<https://knight.as.cornell.edu/summer-programming/>).

Workshops

Knight's English Language Support Office (ELSO) offers bi-weekly workshops for multilingual domestic and international graduate and professional students on topics related to writing and speaking, such as crafting an effective writing process, conversational English, writing for the job search, and revising for organization and structure.

Conversational English Support

Knight's English Language Support Office (ELSO) collaborates with the Language Resource Center to offer English Conversation Hours. In this program, small groups led by a volunteer from the Cornell community meet weekly for informal discussions, cross-cultural dialogue, and to make connections across campus.