CSU Writes is housed in the Graduate School and receives operating funds from the Office of the Vice President for Research. It supports CSU’s research and scholarly writers who write for publication, submission, and/or degree completion.

PROGRAM

We value diversity and serve all graduate student, postdoctorate, faculty, and research writers at CSU through equity-based programming.

We support CSU’s writers “where they are” (lived experiences and professional growth) as they learn skills, contribute to their disciplinary communities, develop expertise, and build their careers through their writing.

We develop program support in response to the needs of CSU’s research writers. Many of our methods come from research on writing containment, writing in social spaces, writing productivity, and agile systems.

Participants consistently rate our offerings highly. The workshops and retreats scored in 2019-20: Event Value average rating at 4.7 and “Would Recommend” this Event at 4.8 out of 5 points.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2020 CSU Writes:

- transitioned all events to remote delivery mid-March 2020 aligned with CSU COVID-19 protocols.
- added COVID-specific support: KEEP Writing “Tuesday Talks” and Shelter-in-Place resources
- supported Black RAMS Matter with “Solidarity in Writing” web resources
- increased overall attendances by 18% (from 2129 to 2513)
- employed 12 graduate student and postdoc interns
- welcomed 17 volunteer proctors (show up & write.), comprised of faculty, postdoc, grad students
- ran 34 workshops on topics ranging from “passive voice” to “writing for publication” to “dealing with procrastination,” and “agile writing”
- ran 23 faculty and graduate student retreats: 1-day, 2-day, and week-long intensives
- launched Collaborative Writing Workshops for faculty mentors and graduate student mentees
PARTICIPANTS

CSU Writes works with writers across their career life-cycle, meaning that we work with early-career graduate students through senior and award-winning faculty. Participants come from all colleges and other interdisciplinary or non-college units.

In 2020, the colleges of Engineering (23%), Health and Human Sciences (21%) had the largest number of participants. Attendances from Agricultural Science (11%), Liberal Arts (11%), and Natural Sciences (11%) were equal. The colleges of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences (9%), Natural Resources (8%), and Business (1%) combined with Other programs (5%) comprised a quarter of this year’s attendances.

2020 KUDOS: Participant Testimonials

With its complexity, rigor, and effort, research writing demonstrates the gumption of individuals as well as the necessity of collaboration and community. The CSU Writes community of writers and collaborators is energized by expressions of mutual appreciation and gratitude in our workshops, retreats, and show up & write. sessions. Below are selections from some of the emails of gratitude we received in 2020.

“I participated in CSU Writes NSF CAREER proposal writing. This year, my DOE Early Career proposal and NSF CAREER were both recommended for funding! So, thanks for your awesome program. I learned so much!” -- FACULTY Writes participant

“I look forward to next semester. Can’t adequately express the value. This should be a requirement for all grad students. For those who know it’s a refresher and for those who need the help it’s an academic game changer.” -- GRAD Writes participant

“Our group was very productive during our writing group time. I personally found this group extremely helpful while I worked on my dissertation, and I still try to make use of some of the strategies I learned in the writing retreats with regards to binge writing. Thank you.” -- GRAD Writes participant

“CSU Writes and Dr. Quynn were invaluable in helping me develop writing habits and organizational skills that allowed me to complete my dissertation. Dr. Quynn immediately recognized the contributing sources of my writer’s anxiety and provided extremely useful and pragmatic tools that shifted me into a more positive mindset and made writing a less daunting task.” -- GRAD Writes participant

“Thanks so much for that session today. You and your team provide a tremendous service to the campus.” -- FACULTY Writes participant

“I was very impressed with the first meeting. I admit to being skeptical that it would be of benefit to me at this point in my career since I’m writing almost every day, but I learned some interesting things already and I can see the potential value of accountability and trouble-shooting techniques to get around writing blocks. Thanks for putting this together!” -- Researcher participant at a special event

write. early. often. better. together.