

Strategies for Improving Writing in STEM Disciplines

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University-Wide Programs	For More Information
<p>Create a collaborative program between the Writing Center and Alumni Affairs to pair a student with an alumnus that has volunteered to read one of their papers, offer advice, and help them aim their writing towards a more professional audience.</p>	<p>The Duke Reader Project Pg 7</p>
<p>Emphasize Student Research Link writing to research opportunities via a senior research project that is presented at the university and/or national conferences. Provide a specific funding source to support this program.</p>	<p>Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University Pg 7</p>
Departmental Programs	For More Information
<p>Draft and implement departmental operational definitions for proficiency in oral and written communication, quantitative reasoning, information literacy, and other key educational outcomes. Clearly communicate goals to students.</p>	<p>Pg 8</p>
<p>Create a collaboration among faculty, practitioners, linguists, and writing specialists to examine the differences between student and practitioner writing and develop materials to address student weaknesses and writing effectiveness that are incorporated into existing upper-division courses.</p>	<p>Civil Engineering Writing Project: Portland State, Cal Poly Pomona, Howard University, and Lawrence Technical University Pg 8</p>
<p>Scaffold Skills Across Multiple Classes in a Major Use a coordinated approach to teach writing across several required classes within a department.</p>	<p>Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University, Pg 7; University of Toronto, Pg 9</p>
<p>Use Student Portfolios/Writing Comparisons Compare baseline abilities of first-year students with graduating seniors; use for assessment.</p>	<p>Santa Clara University Pg 11</p>
Individual Courses	For More Information
<p>Improve Students' Writing Process and Teaching Self-Identification of Writing Issues to help students stop making chronic mistakes in their writing and improve self-directed strategies for research and writing.</p>	<p>Pg 11</p>
<p>Use grammar support software for personalized help with grammar and other deficiencies.</p>	<p>Pg 12</p>
<p>Integrate content and writing to minimize additional units needed to teach writing and help students recognize the benefit of writing to convey content.</p>	<p>Pg 13</p>
<p>Clarify assignment directives and outcomes to help students understand purpose and address student misconceptions about writing professionally.</p>	<p>Pg 13</p>
<p>Provide genre-specific instruction and experiences to minimize differences between student and practitioner writing genre-specific documents.</p>	<p>Pg 13</p>