

**Writing Board Grant**  
**Proposal for Expanding WI Opportunities within a Department or Program**  
**Academic Year 2013-2014**

The Writing Board, established by the Provost with support from the Undergraduate Council, is charged with developing a long-term plan for establishing Writing in the Disciplines (WID) at UMBC. The creation of this board is in response to one of the recommendations put forth by the Honors University Task Force.

Together, the Writing Board and the Provost's Office provide funding for faculty and departments to develop a plan for integrating more writing into departmental courses. (For more suggestions about what writing-intensive courses should include, review the attached guidelines at the end of this proposal form.)

For AY 2013-14, departments/programs may be awarded grant funding for expanding their current WI efforts in amounts up to \$5,000.

Interested departments should complete the Proposal Form and return it to Jill Randles, ACAD IV, A-wing, Suite 114 or via e-mail at [jrandles@umbc.edu](mailto:jrandles@umbc.edu). The Writing Board will review all proposals and select the recipients.

**DUE DATE: For AY 2013-2014 is Wednesday, June 12, 2013**

**Grant Application by a Department/Program**

A. Department/Program: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Department Chair/Director: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Chairperson's/Director's E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson's/Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Chair/Director indicates that the process of investigating the integration of writing into departmental course offerings will be an experience involving most, if not all, members of the department/program.

## Expansion Grants

The Writing Board is pleased to offer departments/programs the opportunity to explore how their current WI efforts can be expanded in any number of ways. Examples the Board would consider include, but are not limited to the following:

- Develop proficiency with technology and new literacies such as digital stories, blogging, podcasting, etc.
- Develop or expand the role of peers as mentors and/or writing fellows
- Create academic opportunities for students that better prepare them for WID experiences in their major
- Expand/create/design support structures that support faculty in best practices in teaching writing
- Expand/create/design support structures that assist students with writing, such as, if applicable, do you plan to include a library research component in order to encourage your students to look for strong support for their theses/hypotheses in already published scholarly resources?
- Support faculty or departments that want to work across disciplines in some sort of collaboration around an identified project, teaching methodology, writing research topic, peer program, etc.

This is an opportunity to think creatively about how writing in your discipline/program can be further developed in order to help students reach the desired goal of a higher quality of writing throughout their academic program.

### Current Proposal Content for Expansion Grant

- 1. Describe the process the department/program will undergo to develop an initial plan for integrating more and/or new opportunities for students to focus on writing.**

For example, will the department faculty/program staff meet as a whole (or select a committee) to outline specific steps needed to produce a plan acceptable to all? Who will review your current curriculum/program to identify where an expansion of the focus on writing could be integrated? How will you assess the techniques and strategies currently used to teach writing? Will you bring in a well-known person in your area who has implemented your idea successfully at his or her institution? Will the department/program consult with others on campus to discuss their experiences and identify best practices at UMBC?

- 2. Please indicate how you will implement your plan and assess its success. The assessment should include a plan for student learning outcomes and how writing will be used to assess students' learning.**

For example, how will traditional concerns about composition such as organization, grammar, and style be a focus? Will books or other materials about writing be used? Will a variety of

types of writing be included? Will the instructors/peers/TAs/others be trained and supported? How will instructors/peers/TAs/others monitor their students' progress? Will students be asked to evaluate their progress in writing? How will you share the results of your project with the other members of your department, not involved in it, and other faculty on campus?

**3. When will you be able to report to the Writing Board that your plan has been enacted and assessed? That is, what is your timeline including periodic benchmarks.**

For example, when will you meet to discuss and outline the components of the plan? When do you expect to implement the strategies you have identified? When will you determine the effectiveness of the proposed changes?