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Wise WritesUVa-Wise Quality Enhancement Plan

Contact: Tom Costa, Ph.D.
Professor of History and Chair,
Department of History and Philosophy
tmc@uvawise.edu

Executive Summary

The QEP of University of Virginia's College at Wise, entitled *Wise Writes*, addresses improving student writing in the disciplines. The plan arose from a protracted series of surveys and conversations among faculty, staff, students, and Board members during the academic year 2013-14.

Wise Writes comprises four main components:

- Hiring a full-time writing specialist/program administrator to direct the plan.
- Re-locating, expanding, and improving the College's writing center.
- Offering faculty workshops to train faculty in all disciplines in teaching and assessing writing in their upper-division courses.
- Development of writing intensive courses in the disciplines

Wise Writes calls for a comprehensive evaluation process that will assess both student writing and the plan itself. A faculty committee will be constituted to work with the QEP director to assess the success of the plan, providing for a centralized assessment process for all College writing and eliminating the subjectivity in rubric scoring. Training a wider spectrum of faculty to teach and to assess writing through the workshops will provide a broader pool of faculty eligible to serve on the committee.

The success of the plan will lie primarily in measurable improvement in student writing in upper-division majors' courses. Using the common rubric, the director and writing committee will assess student writing in the upper-division writing intensive classes. Rubric scores will be compared with baseline scores of a random selection of upper-level papers from AY 2013-15.

Other assessment measures will include direct assessment of the faculty who participate in the workshops; faculty assessment of the techniques they applied in the upper-division writing intensive classes, and surveys of student and faculty attitudes toward writing.

In addition, the plan calls for administering the NSSE in Year 4, to compare the numbers of seniors writing more extensive papers and average number of pages they are writing. The data will be compared with similar data from NSSE surveys in 2009 and 2014.

With a director in place, an improved and enhanced College writing center, and widespread faculty participation in modifying or developing upper-division writing intensive courses, UVa-Wise students will become more effective and confident writers. Improvements in student writing, and the increased emphasis on writing across the College will enable the QEP to continue beyond the five-year life of the plan to become a permanent writing program for the College.