

A Science-Based Writing Across the Curriculum Program

Eric Jandciu

University of British Columbia

Acting on faculty feedback, we developed a Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program in the Faculty of Science at the University of British Columbia to support instructors and TAs as they incorporate writing and offer feedback on student writing. Our WAC program focuses on strategies for incorporating writing in science classes, including the benefits and challenges of doing this. Recently, we expanded the WAC program to include communication skills beyond writing and renamed the program WAC+.

One of the ways we engage educators at UBC with the WAC+ program is through workshops. We have developed educator workshops on topics such as: writing assignment and assessment design, providing effective feedback on writing assignments, teaching succinct and accurate science writing, non-traditional communication assignments, and teaching oral communication in science. Over the two years that WAC+ has existed, we have offered 22 workshops and had 215 participants (129 unique attendees). Workshop materials and other resources are collected and all freely available at <http://scwrl.ubc.ca/educator-resources/wac/>.

The WAC+ program also includes one-on-one consultations, classroom visits, and a monthly newsletter including quick science communication tips for educators, such as: resources for student success, working with multilingual students, using student peer review, helping students prepare for final exams, sourcing digital content and designing authentic writing assignments.

This poster will provide an overview of our model, a summary of the topics WAC+ has covered so far, and details on how we have evaluated our work and responded to feedback.