Evidence of Low Writing Proficiencies among Graduating PhD Students

- About 1 in 3 report low/no proficiency in writing:
  - Proposals to obtain funding
  - Scholarly articles for publication
  - Products for non-expert audiences

CHALLENGES

- Academic Writing: 1 in 4 are NOT confident that they can produce high-quality work, or express their ideas clearly and concisely
- Writing Process: 1 in 3 are NOT confident that they can overcome writer’s block, or develop & follow timelines for drafts/revision
- Lack of Resources: 1 in 2 are NOT confident about how to seek help with their writing
- Presumed Competence: 2 in 5 are NOT confident about speaking to their advisor about their writing needs

Interest in a Variety of Writing Resources

- Lists of Resources: 26% interested
- Daytime Writing Workshops: 20% interested
- Online Tutorials: 20% interested
- One-on-One Tutoring: 18% interested
- Designated Writing Spaces on Campus: 17% interested

Divisional Differences in Writing Experiences & Needs

Percentage of advanced PhD students who have worked on...

- Literature Review
  - Social Sciences: 80%
  - Physical Sciences: 75%
  - Humanities: 65%
  - Arts: 45%

- Journal Article
  - Social Sciences: 73%
  - Physical Sciences: 68%
  - Humanities: 60%
  - Arts: 45%

- Report for Non-Academic Audiences
  - Social Sciences: 50%
  - Physical Sciences: 48%
  - Humanities: 56%
  - Arts: 43%

- Grant/Fellowship Application
  - Social Sciences: 79%
  - Physical Sciences: 75%
  - Humanities: 84%
  - Arts: 48%

- Co-Authorship with Faculty in Journal/Conference Proceedings
  - Social Sciences: 55%
  - Physical Sciences: 73%
  - Humanities: 50%
  - Arts: 45%

Campus-wide response rate: 59%  
For more detailed information on these survey results, please email surveys@ucsc.edu