

# CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPING WRITING EXPERTISE

Snapshots from the 2017 UCSC Graduate Student Survey



◆ PHYSICAL & BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES ◆

## Evidence of Low Writing Proficiencies among Graduating PhD Students

**1 in 3** report low/no proficiency in writing **funding proposals** and in writing **for non-expert audiences**

**1 in 4** report low/no proficiency in writing **scholarly articles**



### CHALLENGES

**LACK OF RESOURCES**

**1 in 2** are NOT confident about **how to seek help with their writing**

**WRITING PROCESS**

**1 in 3** are NOT confident that they can **overcome writer's block** or **develop & follow timelines for drafts/revision**

**PRESUMED COMPETENCE**

**1 in 3** are NOT confident about **speaking to their advisor about writing needs**

**ACADEMIC WRITING**

**1 in 4** are NOT confident that they can **express their ideas clearly & concisely**

**69%**

*had never written for a non-academic audience*

**47%**

*had never worked on any preparatory research materials (e.g., annotated bibliography, literature review, seminar paper)*

**37%**

*had never co-authored with faculty in a peer-reviewed journal*

Students with **more experience** in:



Writing preparatory research materials



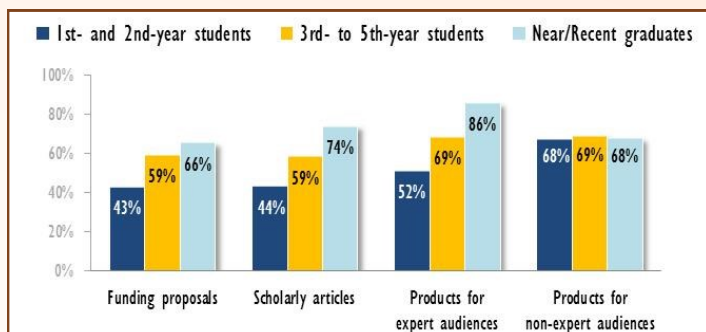
Writing for conferences & publications



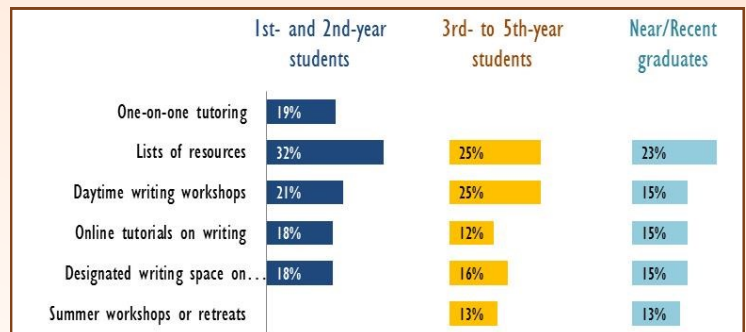
Co-authoring with faculty

...reported significantly **higher writing proficiencies**

## Variations in Writing Proficiencies & Needs based on Student Progress



PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO REPORTED PROFICIENCY IN WRITING VARIOUS PRODUCTS



TOP 5 WRITING INITIATIVES OF STUDENTS BASED ON PROGRESS IN PROGRAM (% interested)