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

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

1 in 3 are NOT confident that they can express their ideas clearly & concisely

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

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

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

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

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

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PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO REPORTED PROFICIENCY IN WRITING VARIOUS PRODUCTS

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

PBSci response rate: 62% • For more detailed information on these survey results, please email surveys@ucsc.edu