Evidence of Low Writing Proficiencies among Graduating PhD Students

1 in 3 report low/no proficiency in writing articles for publication
1 in 2 report low/no proficiency in writing funding proposals

ACADEMIC WRITING
1 in 4 are NOT confident that they can express their ideas clearly & concisely, or use discipline-specific terms & academic vocabulary

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 3 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

Students with more experience in:

- Writing for conferences & publications
- Co-authoring with faculty
- Generating professional application materials

...reported significantly higher writing proficiencies

Variations in Writing Proficiencies & Needs based on Student Progress

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO REPORTED PROFICIENCY IN WRITING VARIOUS PRODUCTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Products</th>
<th>1st- and 2nd-year students</th>
<th>3rd- to 5th-year students</th>
<th>Near/Recent graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Products for expert audiences</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles for publication</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding proposals</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- Evening writing workshops: 21%
- Summer workshops or retreats: 21%
- Online tutorials: 20%
- One-on-one tutoring: 21%
- Workshops for non-native English speakers: 14%

Students who did receive useful guidance from their primary advisor in writing grant/fellowship applications significantly reported higher proficiencies across all written products

SOE response rate: 60%  
For more detailed information on these survey results, please email surveys@ucsc.edu