

CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPING WRITING EXPERTISE

Snapshots from the 2017 UCSC Graduate Student Survey



◆ BASKIN SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING ◆

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**

CHALLENGES

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**



38%

did not receive useful guidance from their primary advisor in writing grant/fellowship applications

Students with **more experience** in:



Writing for conferences & publications



Co-authoring with faculty

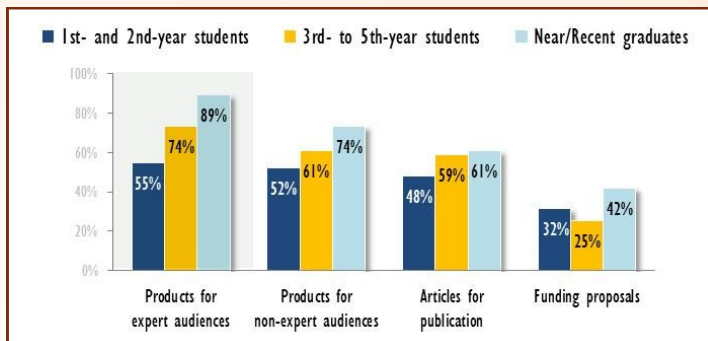


Generating professional application materials

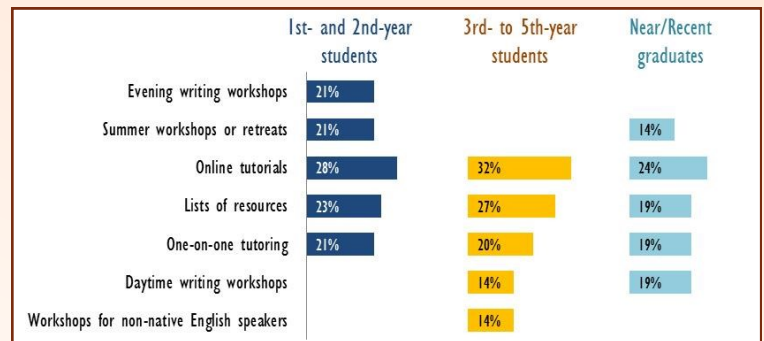
...reported significantly **higher writing proficiencies**

Students who did receive useful guidance reported significantly higher proficiencies across all written products

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)