

Scientific Writing for International Students (6-week course to be offered twice a semester)

For Doctoral Students in ME and ECE

Course Offering:

Two 6-week sessions offered each spring and fall semesters, with 4 hours of meeting a week.

Course Description

In this class, students will first learn the cultural aspects of writing because many writing problems stem from poor understanding of how writing is used in our culture. Students next learn the principles of organizing ideas clearly, completely, and cohesively. In addition, students will analyze common non-native writing errors such as articles and countability, and they will examine errors common in all advanced writing (native and non-native), including: punctuation and mechanics, conjunctions, adverb placement, adjective clauses, phrasal modifiers, and parallel structures. They then use their awareness of specific writing and grammar errors to practice proofreading and editing their own documents independently and during one-on-one meetings with the instructor.

Individual Sessions:

Two 30-Minute Individual Sessions per student successfully completing course.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. Articulate cultural differences in writing style and their relationship to beliefs about writing.
2. Organize material according to American writing principles, including the use of topic strings, connectors, and transitions on the sentence, paragraph, and document levels.
3. Maintain consistency and appropriate structures in their documents and PowerPoint presentations.
4. Be aware of their most common grammar, mechanics, and writing problems, and begin to recognize and repair them in their own and others' writing.
5. Write a cover letter and other types of correspondence.
6. Write, revise, and add to their resumes and other completed documents.
7. Feel more confident about their writing and become less dependent on help from others.

Course Prerequisite

To take this course, students must have a manuscript in progress (i.e., not something they have done in the past). Such a document might include a section of your proposal, a journal submission, or a thesis/dissertation chapter. Students need to attend all of the class sessions, so please make sure your schedule allows you to complete all 6 weeks and you will not drop in the middle. Ideally, you should have your research advisor on board and aware you are taking this class.

For ECE students to sign up for the course, send an email indicating your interest in taking the course to Daniela Staiculescu at daniela@ece.gatech.edu.