Writing Support Centre
Summer Academic Writing Clinic FAQs

Academics

Q. Is SAWC only for students entering programs like English?
A. SAWC is designed as a university writing program. Our program is intended for students from all faculties and focuses on critical thinking and writing skills that are applicable to every faculty. At certain times, concurrent seminars that focus on subject-specific writing will be offered, but participants can choose which of these seminars to attend. SAWC enrollment generally mirrors Western’s by-faculty populations with the majority of our participants entering Western’s two largest faculties: science and social science.

Q. Is SAWC intended to be a remedial program for those entering university?
A. SAWC is designed as a transitional program, not a remedial program. All participants come with varied writing abilities; we focus on what skills and understanding you need to make a successful transition from secondary to post-secondary education.

Q. Do I receive academic credit for attending SAWC?
A. Attending SAWC will not count as academic credit. However, SAWC attendance can be used as an approved activity for Western’s Co-Curricular Record, an online record of extracurricular activities that highlights Western students’ skills and experience, which can be featured on résumés and applications.

Q. Will my attendance at SAWC show up on my transcripts?
A. No.

Q. I am attending SAWC with my friend. Can we be in the same group?
A. Any request for accommodation should be sent to the SAWC Programmer well in advance of your session’s start date. We will do our best to accommodate, but we cannot guarantee all participants’ requests will be met.

Q. I am attending another university in the fall or do not plan to enroll in university this year. Can I still enroll in SAWC?
A. Anyone can enroll in SAWC, although only Western students can earn Co-Curricular Record recognition.

Q. Can I attend a seminar offered in a subject outside of my faculty?
A. Participants can attend any seminars that are offered.

Q. Do I have to sign up for the seminars?
A. Participants are not required to sign up for the seminars.

Q. Who will be teaching the seminars?
A. All of our instructors are experienced Writing Support Centre staff and include Western faculty members.

Q. What professors will be attending the professor panel?
A. Professors from various disciplines will be attending the panel; however, time limitations and summer schedules will prevent accommodating a professor from every faculty. Participants are asked to arrive on time for the panel as a sign of courtesy to our guest speakers.
Q. I have questions/concerns regarding my upcoming first year. Can I ask the instructors for advice?
A. Instructors are happy to answer questions at the appropriate times.

Q. Is there homework?
A. There is no homework assigned during SAWC; it is against Writing Support Centre policy to grade work as this is the responsibility of course instructors and/or TAs alone.

Q. Can I bring previously written work?
A. On Thursday, from 4:30-5:15, instructors will be available to discuss participants’ previously written work one-on-one. These limited one-on-one counselling sessions are on a first-come first-served basis. Participants may bring either a printed or digital copy of written work.

Schedule and Time
Q. When do classes begin?
A. On the first day, registration runs from 9:30-10:30 a.m., giving you time to settle in to your room before the first session begins at 11 a.m. Participants may make their own way to the first session or go in groups accompanied by a SAWC staff member. Please promptly return to the lobby after dropping off your luggage in your room if you wish to join these groups. Class will begin at 9:00 on Wednesday and Thursday.

Q: Can I skip registration?
A: No. You must complete in-person registration, even if you aren't staying in residence. Participants who fail to submit their signed Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk form during registration will not be allowed to attend SAWC.

Q. What time do classes end on Wednesday and Thursday?
A. On Wednesday, classes end at 5:00 p.m. On Thursday, classes end at 4:30 p.m., but participants may stay to participate in the optional one-on-one counselling, which ends at 5:15 p.m.

Q. What time does SAWC end on Friday?
A. SAWC ends at 2:30 p.m. on Friday. Participants staying in residence must return their room key and check out of residence by 3:00 p.m.

Q. Can I leave early on the last day?
A. Participants may leave at any time for any reason; however, if they are staying in residence, they must checkout and return their room key before 3:00 on Friday.

Q. I want to buy some of my textbooks while I'm on campus. Will I have time to do that?
A. Participants may use their lunch breaks to visit the Campus Bookstore in the lower level of the University Community Centre. The Bookstore typically closes around 4:30 p.m. in the summer.

Q. Are evening activities planned?
A. Evenings are considered free time. Participants can use their evenings to explore the campus and may bring personal games or entertainment to use during this time but must assume responsibility for them. SAWC staff will be running on-campus activities, which we encourage all participants to attend. Participants will be informed of these activity options when they arrive on campus. Past activities have included a movie night at Western film; an evening of star-gazing at Cronyn Observatory, hosted by the Department of Physics and Astronomy; a beach volleyball tournament; and a pizza party. Participants staying in residence will have access to sports equipment, lounges with TV and DVD equipment, indoor table-top games, and a workout room. Participants may purchase guest passes to
Western recreational facilities, such as the Western Student Recreation Centre (WSRC) and University Tennis Centre (UTC), but may have to bring their own equipment and/or appropriate gym/pool wear and may need to call ahead to book court space or to check hours. To reserve a tennis court, call (519) 661-3112; hourly rate is $40.00 including tax (cash or cheque). If you wish to book a space at WSRC, call (519) 661-3090 to speak with a WSRC associate. Day pass rates for WSRC are approximately $10.00 including tax.

Accommodations
Q. What residence will SAWC be using for overnight accommodation?
A. Overnight accommodation will be at Ontario Hall, Western’s newest residence. Ontario Hall is located on the south end of campus at 230 Sarnia Road (entrance via the Althouse Faculty of Education off Western Rd, south of Sarnia Road). Ontario Hall is a semi-suite style residence, so participants will have a private bedroom but share a washroom with their suitemate. Ontario Hall is also the location of Western’s Bed and Breakfast.

Q. Do I need to bring a pillow or blanket?
A. Beds will be made with sheets, pillows and a blanket. If needed, more blankets can be requested from the Front Desk. Please be advised that the residence mattresses are firm; if you feel it necessary to your comfort, you may bring a personal blanket or topper.

Q. Do I have to bring my own towels/shampoo/soap?
A. Towels (medium-sized) and soap are provided, but shampoo is not provided.

Q. Is Wi-fi available?
A. Yes. During registration, all SAWC participants will pick up their temporary wi-fi username and password from the Front Desk, even if they are not staying in residence. Some SAWC seminars include accessing the UWO wireless network on your personal device and we would like all participants to have the necessary credentials to do so.

Q. Is drinking permitted during SAWC?
A. Drinking is NOT PERMITTED during SAWC. SAWC is a dry event. Any alcohol will be confiscated.

Q. Can I arrange to stay an extra night before the clinic begins/ends?
A. Yes; however, participants must arrange their own extra nights. SAWC staff will not coordinate extra nights, and you will not be able to book the same room that you will stay in during SAWC. To arrange extra nights, call Western’s Bed & Breakfast at 519-661-3476 or 1-888-661-3545 or reach them through their contact form on www.stayatwestern.ca. Western’s B&B operates out of the Ontario Hall residence.

Q. My parents/guardians are coming to town with me. Can you provide them with accommodations?
A. To accommodate your parents/guardians, contact Western’s Bed & Breakfast at 519-661-3476 or 1-888-661-3545 or reach them through their contact form on www.stayatwestern.ca.

Q. I lost/broke my room key. Do I have to pay to replace it?
A. There is no fee to replace a lost or broken key.

Q. Furniture was broken in my room. Who is responsible for replacing it?
A. Participants staying in residence must sign a damages accountability form stating that he or she will take responsibility for everything in that room. Any damages to that room will be billed to the participant accordingly.

Q. My room is messy. Will housekeeping clean it for me?
A. Housekeeping will tidy your room on the last day, but any mess that is considered
excessive will result in an additional charge to the participant staying in that room as per the damages accountability form.

**Q. I want to leave campus. Is this permitted?**
A. Participants are permitted to leave campus. However, each participant is required to sign an **Assumption of Risk** form that states that UWO is not responsible for any actions or consequences that may occur on or off campus. Participants are encouraged to be responsible by communicating with family, friends, or fellow participants regarding their whereabouts and when they plan to return to campus. As part of online registration, participants are asked to provide their cellphone number in case of an emergency. SAWC staff will only contact a participant’s cellphone in the event of an emergency.

**Parking**

**Q. Where can I park during SAWC?**
A. All participants, whether staying overnight or not, may park for free in the SAWC residence parking lot. SAWC parking is located directly behind Ontario Hall in the Ontario Hall Lot. If participants wish to park in other UWO lots, payment is required. For more information on UWO parking visit [http://www.uwo.ca/parking/find/summer_evening_weekend.html](http://www.uwo.ca/parking/find/summer_evening_weekend.html)

**Payment**

**Q. What is the cancellation policy?**
A. You must give notice by email a minimum of two weeks before the start date of your session in order to receive a refund.

**Q. Can I bring cash or a cheque and pay on the first day?**
A. No. All payments must be made by credit card online through the SAWC registration website.

**Q. Can I get a receipt?**
A. Yes. To receive a receipt, please send an email request to sawc@uwo.ca with the subject line “receipt request,” and we will email you a receipt. Participants will not receive a receipt unless an emailed request is sent.

**Meals**

**Q. I am not staying overnight. Am I still allowed to have the provided breakfast/lunch/dinner?**
A. Yes. Meals are included for all participants. **Please note, the cost of meals cannot be waived.** All participants are given lunch and dinner on the first day (Wednesday), all three meals on the second day (Thursday), and breakfast and lunch on the third day (Friday).

**Q. Are snacks provided?**
A. Snacks are not provided. Vending machines are available throughout campus, and some campus cafeterias remain open during the summer, but not all take debit. Participants are advised to bring some spending money with them for snacks. The University Community Centre also has a grocery store and a pharmacy where food can be purchased. There are also several restaurants (Subway, Pizza Hut, Barakat Mediterranean Cuisine) located near Ontario Hall on Western Road.

**Q. Are there vegetarian options?**
A. All meals include vegetarian options.
Q. I have a food allergy/restriction. How can I make sure my meal is safe?
A. Participants with dietary restrictions, such as gluten intolerance, should approach catering staff at meal times and notify them about their dietary restriction. The caterer will then identify what foods on the buffet are suitable. Participants with extreme allergies should notify catering staff at meal times and, if necessary, will have a separate meal arranged. Please note, the caterers are aware that some participants will require accommodation for a dietary restriction/allergy and are prepared with a limited number of alternatives; however, it is participants’ responsibility to directly approach and communicate with catering staff during mealtimes to ensure their dietary needs are met.

Misc.

Q. How much walking will I have to do?
A. Since Western is not a small university, taking advantage of our diverse campus facilities will entail a significant amount of walking. The distance from Ontario Hall to the SAWC classrooms in the Social Science Centre is approximately 1.3 km and takes about 15 minutes to walk. The distance from Ontario Hall to the Grad Club, our dining location, is approximately 1.5 km and takes about 18 minutes to walk. The distance between the Grad Club and classrooms is approximately 0.5 km and takes about 5 minutes to walk. Participants should give themselves enough time to travel between buildings. Please wear suitable walking footwear and be prepared for rainy weather, as well as hot/cool temperatures. Please be aware that several streets intersect campus and may experience heavy traffic at times. Participants should be alert and always obey pedestrian traffic signs.

Q. Can I bring my laptop?
A. Yes, although the classrooms may not have enough outlets for all students to plug in their laptops. Additionally, SAWC is not responsible for the laptop.

Q. Why haven’t I received some of the emails?
A. Some emails, particularly those to hotmail accounts, are problematic. If possible, use a UWO email account when you register. Additionally, if you register with your UWO account, please check that account for SAWC information.

Q. How do I get to SAWC registration from the train station?
A. London has a variety of taxi companies, or you can take the bus. For more information on London Transit, visit http://www.ltconline.ca

*If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the SAWC Programmer at sawc@uwo.ca or at (519) 661-2111 ext. 85500