

George Mason University Peer Tutor Alumni Survey Summary Report (Fall 2009)

Total Contacted (via Mail and/or Email): 63

Total Responses: 27¹ (42.9%)

- **Mail:** 9 (34.6%)
- **Email:** 3² (11.5%)
- **Online Survey:** 15 (57.7%)

Question #1: What Year(s) and for How Many Semesters Did You Tutor for the Writing Center?

Average Semesters in Program (including both Peer Tutor and Writing Fellow Semesters): 2.2

Question #2: What was (were) your major(s), and when did you graduate?

Major	Number (of majors, not people, some doubled)	% (out of 27 people)
English:	10	37.0
Government and International Politics:	3	11.1
Psychology:	3	11.1
Anthropology:	2	7.4
Economics:	2	7.4
Religious Studies:	2	7.4
Accounting:	1	3.7
Biology:	1	3.7
Communication:	1	3.7
Finance:	1	3.7
Geography:	1	3.7
History:	1	3.7
Information Technology:	1	3.7
Integrative Studies:	1	3.7

Question #3: What occupation(s) or further education have you pursued since graduation? If you are currently a graduate student, where and what are you studying?

Pursuing Further Education: 18 (78.3%)

Employed (either as career or while continuing education): 17 (73.9%)

¹ We are actually missing 3 responses. All 3 were mailed, and apparently disappeared between the summer and fall semesters. After Question 3, their responses are no longer tallied, and the overall averages are based on 24 responses.

² It should be noted that respondents were NOT heavily encouraged to respond via email, and given little incentive to do so. In the original mailing they were invited to respond either by Mail or by Email, though they were given return envelopes and would have had to recreate the survey to respond via email. The online survey was included in a follow up email.

Occupation	Number in Field	% in field
Education:	5	29.4
Marketing:	3	17.6
Customer Service:	2	11.8
Finance/Accounting:	2	11.8
Gov't/Politics:	2	11.8
Writing/Publishing:	2	11.8
IT:	1	5.9

Question #4: What would you say are the most valuable skills you developed in your work as a peer writing tutor?

Skill	Number	%
Teaching	13	54.2
Writing	9	37.5
Communication	8	33.3
Critical Thinking	4	16.7
Knowledge of Diversity	4	16.7
Confidence	1	4.2

Question #5: Did you draw on/refer to your writing center experience in the interviewing and/or hiring process for employment or application for graduate school?

Yes: 21 (87.5%)

Question #6: Would you say you've used the skills you developed as a writing tutor in your current occupation or graduate study?

Yes: 22 (91.7%)

Question #7: To what extent do you think your own writing was influenced by your experience as a writing tutor?³ What did you learn from working with the writing of others?

Trait Learned	Number	%
Awareness (of Audience, or of Multiple Perspectives):	5	20.8
Editing:	5	20.8
Revision:	5	20.8
Structure (Organization, Flow):	4	16.7
Voice:	4	16.7
Clarity:	3	12.5
Pre-Writing:	3	12.5
General Improvement:	2	8.3
Interest:	2	8.3
Creativity:	1	4.2
Synthesis:	1	4.2

³ All respondents replied that their own writing was heavily influenced (improved) by their time as a writing tutor.

Question #8: How would you rate⁴ the importance of your writing center training and experience as part of your overall undergraduate experience? Below the grid, will you explain your rating?

Average Rating: 4.7

Question #9: What role would you say the writing center played in your overall undergraduate experience?

Role	Number	%
Writing (Improved Writing Skills):	13	54.2
Community (Networking, Friendships):	8	33.3
Career:	6	25
Education (General skills for education, either in undergraduate or further graduate career):	4	16.7
Volunteerism (Fulfilled desire to help others):	4	16.7
Self-Improvement (Positive influence on personality, sense of identity):	3	12.5

⁴ 1-5: 1 = "no importance," 5 = "great importance"