



Employers report that effective written communication is one of the top five skills for success on the job. In a spring 2006 survey of local employers, 70% reported that poor mechanics, grammar, and spelling are **significant** problems and can contribute to lack of success in the workplace. The majority of employers stated that expectations for the amount and accuracy of writing will **increase** over the next ten years.

On a recent survey, SCC students reported that synthesizing ideas and making judgments about the value of information were the least emphasized mental activities during their college education.

0% of SCC faculty surveyed believe that our graduates are *well prepared* for writing on the job or in higher level coursework.

**Goal of the Writing Across the Curriculum program**  
To improve student writing in through in-class and out-of-class writing assistance from trained instructors, the LAC, peer tutoring, and Smarthinking.

Why is improving student writing important?

- Academic success
- Professional employment
  - Getting the job
  - Advancing in the profession
- Self expression

What are the best ways to improve student writing?

- Focusing on key writing skills and practice in composition courses
- Applying and extending writing skills in content-area courses
- Applying writing skills in clinic and co-op experiences

Individualized writing assistance is available:

- Learning Assistance Center, 8-8 M-Th, 8-4 F
- Peer tutoring, by appointment around your schedule
- Smarthinking.com, 24-7

LAC workshops on effective writing strategies include:

- Gathering, organizing, and evaluating materials for research-based papers and projects
- Paraphrasing, summarizing, and using direct quotations
- Citing sources in MLA and APA format
- Grammar and mechanics
- Vocabulary building and spelling

Coming soon: WAC web site at [www.southwesterncc.edu/WAC](http://www.southwesterncc.edu/WAC) and SCC Style Guide

Questions or comments? Contact Barb Putman, QEP chair, ext. 496.