

## Learning Space Spotlight:

## Write from the Start Writing and Communication Center

#### Nova Southeastern University



Collaborative Work Space with painting by Peer Consultant (on left white wall)



Main Studio Space - Highlighting Furniture



Main Studio Space - Highlighting Windows



Main Studio Space - Longview, Colors

## LEARNING SPACE SPOTLIGHT: NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY WRITE FROM THE START WRITING AND COMMUNICATION CENTER





Shark Tanks I and II

Teaching and Learning Studio

www.nova.edu/wcc/	Website	www.nova.edu/wcc/
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#### Vision

NSU's Writing and Communication Center is a student-centered, co-curricular, academic program that helps students achieve academic excellence. Students at all levels can receive one-on-one assistance from peer and professional consultants. The WCC provides faculty and students with innovative teaching, learning, and scholarship opportunities, in and out of the classroom.

#### **Details**

The NSU Write from the Start Writing and Communication Center (WCC) was built in 2018. The approximately 3,000 sq. ft. space has a total capacity of 146. The WCC is housed on the 4th floor of NSU's Alvin Sherman Library. Take a virtual tour: <a href="https://www.nova.edu/wcc/aboutour-new-space.html">https://www.nova.edu/wcc/aboutour-new-space.html</a>

#### Design

#### Kosinski Architecture

#### **Key Features**

**Main Studio Space:** Open workspace with mobile furniture, rolling and fixed whiteboards, and touchscreen monitors that increase collaboration and creativity.

**Shark Tanks:** Collaborative, enclosed multimodal workspaces designed for presentation practice, online sessions, and group projects with large monitors, mobile chairs, and audio/visual recording capabilities.

**Teaching and Learning Studio:** Large active learning classroom designed for workshops, meetings, teleconferencing, and consultations. Equipped with three large-screen monitors and cameras that allow events to be streamed online and recorded.

**Collaborative Work Spaces 1 & 2:** Mid-sized, open spaces with monitors, wireless keyboards, and comfortable seating. One space showcases a painting by a peer consultant.

#### **Technologies**

To maintain the flexible and collaborative atmosphere of the WCC, desktop computers are not installed. Instead, consultants and visitors have access to:

- 20 laptops
- 10 iPads
- 8 Smart TVs
- 4 cameras

LEARNING SPACE SPOTLIGHT: NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY WRITE FROM THE START WRITING AND COMMUNICATION
CENTER

## Innovative features/Uses

- Streaming workshops
- Recording presentations
- Highly fenestrated interior/exterior allows for ample sunlight, reducing need for interior lighting in common and office areas

#### Staffing

Along with an executive director, 3 faculty coordinators, and 1 administrative coordinator, the Writing and Communication Center is staffed by trained professional and peer writing consultants. Consulting staff include:

- 7 Graduate Assistants
- 7 Part-Time Professional Consultants
- 17 Graduate Peer Consultants
- 37 Undergraduate Peer Consultants
- 6 Front Desk Assistants (undergraduate)

# Research and Recognition

Dvorak, Kevin (2018). Using LibGuides to deliver communication-based resources: A behind the scenes partnership between a writing and communication center and a university library. *Communication Center Journal*, 4(1), pp.68-74.

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# Additional information

The NSU WCC opened on January 8, 2018. In its first year, the WCC provided over 8,500 consultations (over 1,000 online) to over 2,800 unique NSU students. The WCC offers an array of programming, including an extensive undergraduate writing fellows initiative, graduate student workshops, faculty development for teaching writing across the disciplines, and online resources. Leadership and peer consultants have collaborated on research that has resulted in over 20 conference presentations, 10 peer reviewed articles, and two edited manuscripts in progress.

Profile by Kevin Dvorak, Professor and Executive Director, Writing and Communication Center, Nova Southeastern University; and Janine Morris, Assistant Professor & Faculty Coordinator, Writing and Communication Center, Nova Southeastern University.

Photos by Emalee Shrewsbury, Graduate Assistant, Nova Southeastern University Writing and Communication Center.