

**Supporting Students' Writing and Degree Completion:
Boot Camps, Write-Ins, and Writing Retreats**

Launching Dissertation Boot Camp at an Academic Medical Center

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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER™
GRADUATE STUDIES

About the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)

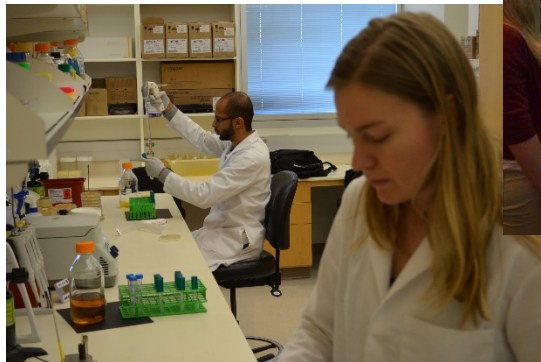
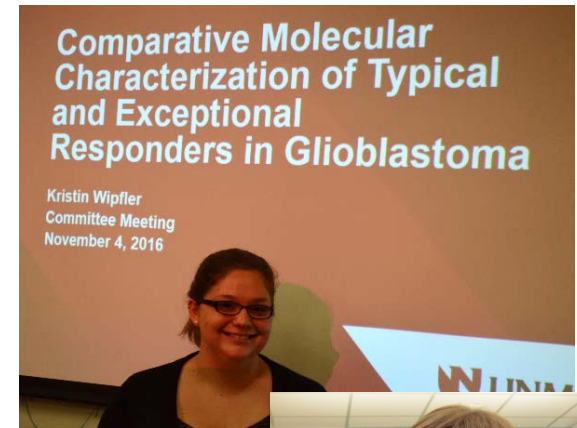
- University of Nebraska system
 - University of Nebraska - Lincoln
 - University of Nebraska - Omaha
 - University of Nebraska - Kearney
 - **University of Nebraska Medical Center**

- 3,200 students
 - College of Allied Health Professions
 - College of Dentistry
 - College of Medicine
 - College of Nursing
 - College of Pharmacy
 - **Graduate Studies**



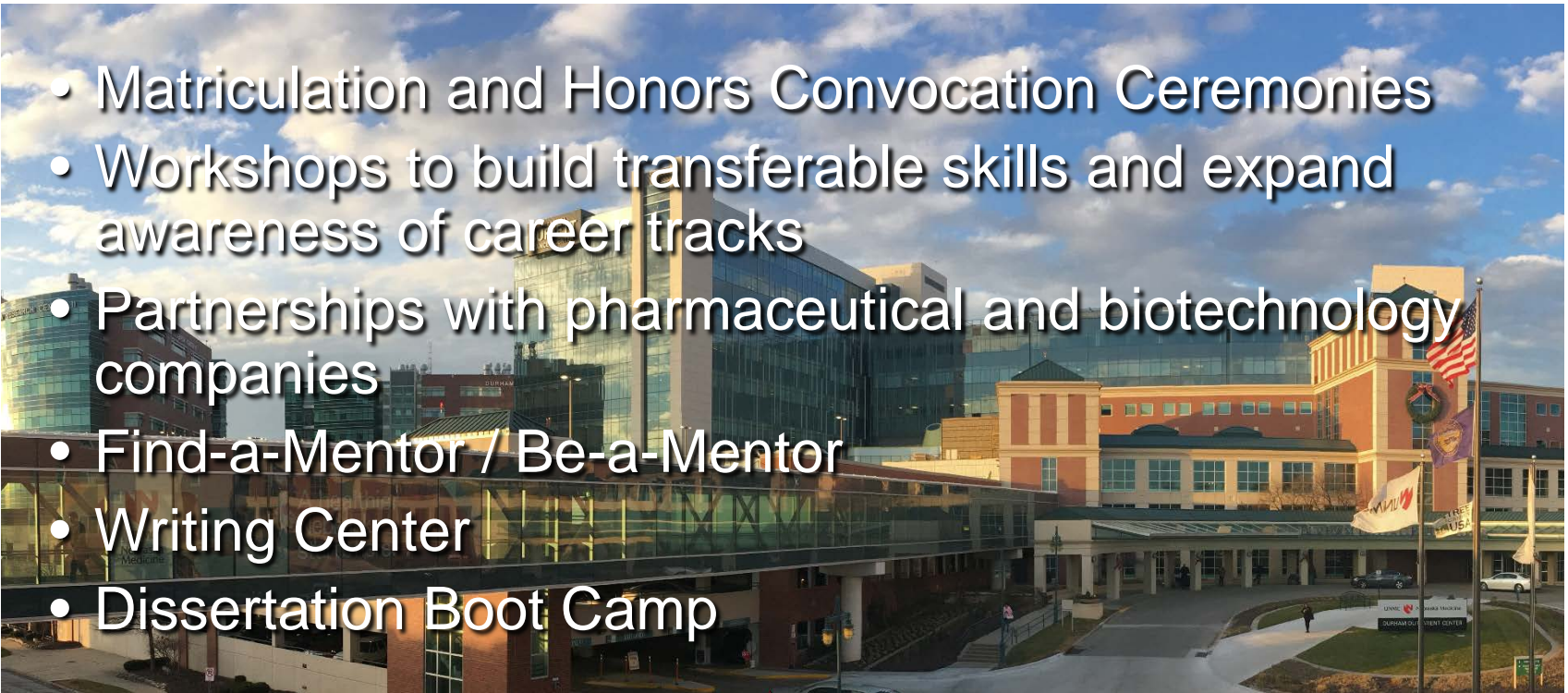
UNMC Graduate Student Demographics

- ~450 graduate students
(60% U.S. citizens or permanent residents)
- 88 Ph.D. and 37 M.S. degrees awarded in 2015-2016
- 10 Ph.D. programs in the biomedical sciences, nursing and public health

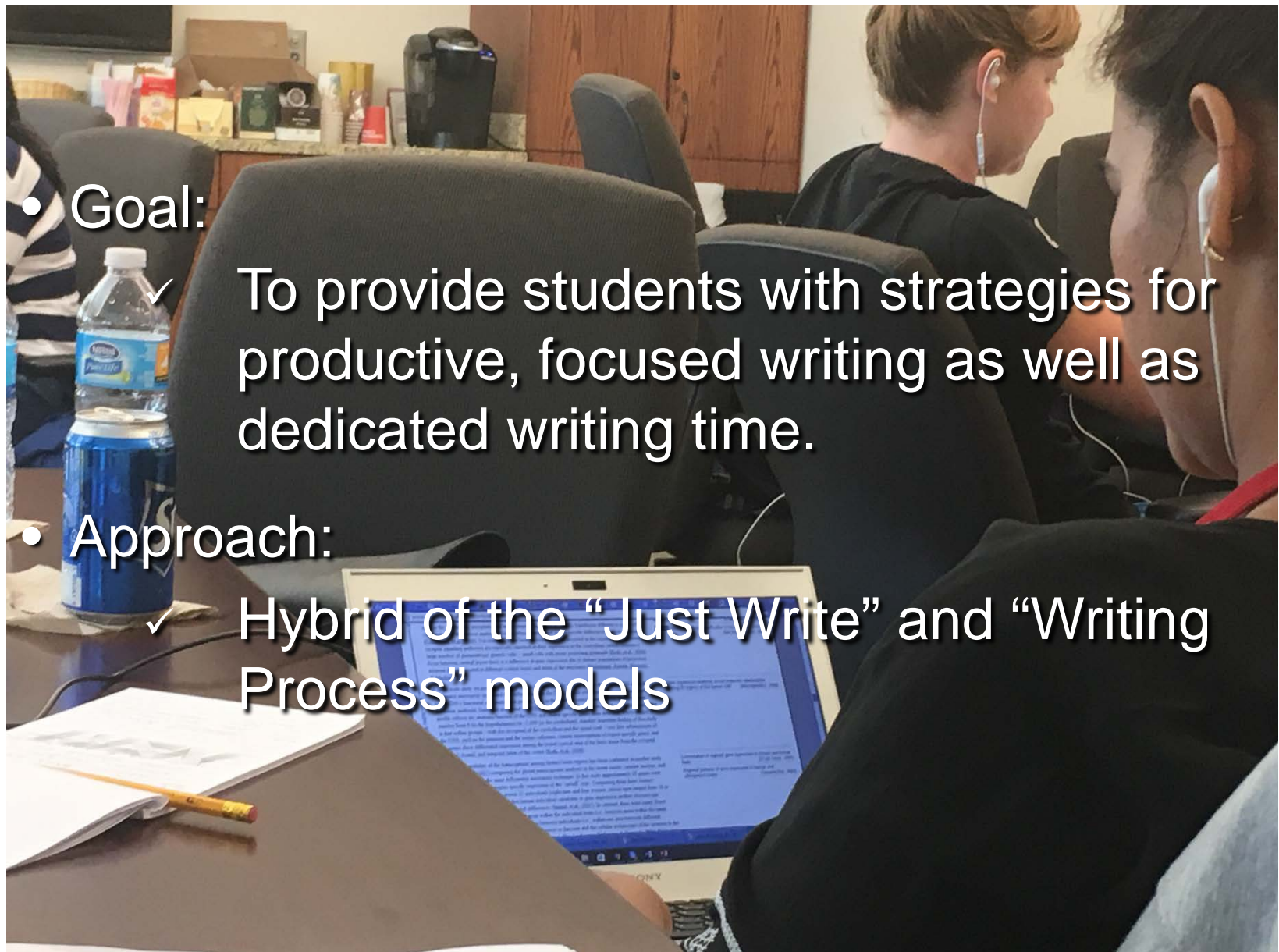


New Initiatives to Enhance the Graduate School Experience at UNMC

- Matriculation and Honors Convocation Ceremonies
- Workshops to build transferable skills and expand awareness of career tracks
- Partnerships with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies
- Find-a-Mentor / Be-a-Mentor
- Writing Center
- Dissertation Boot Camp



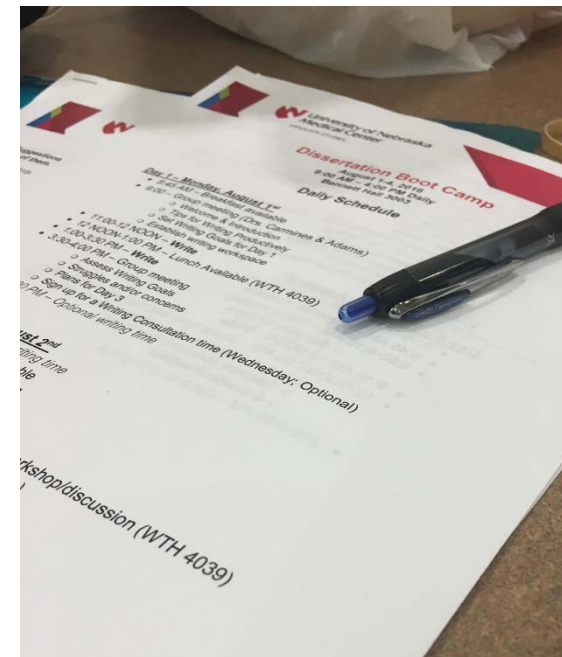
UNMC Dissertation Boot Camp



- Goal: To provide students with strategies for productive, focused writing as well as dedicated writing time.
- Approach: Hybrid of the “Just Write” and “Writing Process” models

Planning & Logistics

- Who can attend?
- When to hold the boot camps?
- Duration and frequency?
- How many students can we accommodate?
 - ✓ Writing space
 - ✓ Lunch and mini-workshops
- How many students will sign-up?
- How to advertise?
- Will we charge a fee?





Registration Form

Tuesday through Friday, January 3-6, 2017

Boot Camp starts each day at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and beverages are included. All participants are asked to make a serious commitment to the program, and to attend all sessions.

Cost: \$75, posted to the student's account. The fee will be waived, in full, for all students who complete the Boot Camp program. Thus, only those students who fail to complete the program must pay the fee. (Similar to a late registration fee, the fee will not be paid by the student's department or program. A hold will be placed on the student's account until the fee is paid.) *Completing the program requires attending all sessions, showing up on time each day, and staying throughout the entire session.*

Registration is on a **first-come, first-served** basis and is limited to 14 PhD candidates who are in the process of writing their dissertation. Complete this form, including PI/Supervisor's signature, and submit it in person to the Graduate Studies Office (ARS 2004) by **November 30**.

Name	<input type="text"/>	Net ID	<input type="text"/>
Graduate Program	<input type="text"/>		
First date (month & year) of enrollment as a degree-seeking PhD student	<input type="text"/>		
Date of admission to PhD Candidacy	<input type="text"/>		
Anticipated date (month & year) of final oral exam / dissertation defense	<input type="text"/>		
Your PI/Supervisor's name	<input type="text"/>		

PI/Supervisor's signature, acknowledging the student's participation in Dissertation Boot Camp during the dates/times indicated and relieving him/her from other duties during those periods:



How to Make Dissertation Boot Camp Effective for Distance Students?

OUR CAMPUSES

Whether it's cosmopolitan Omaha, ultimate college town Lincoln, little big town Kearney, western landmark Scottsbluff or Nebraska's northeastern heartland, Norfolk, each of UNMC's campuses offers a comfortable home base that doubles as a launching pad.

[Learn More](#)



Success!

Nine students completed the inaugural dissertation boot camp in August 2016



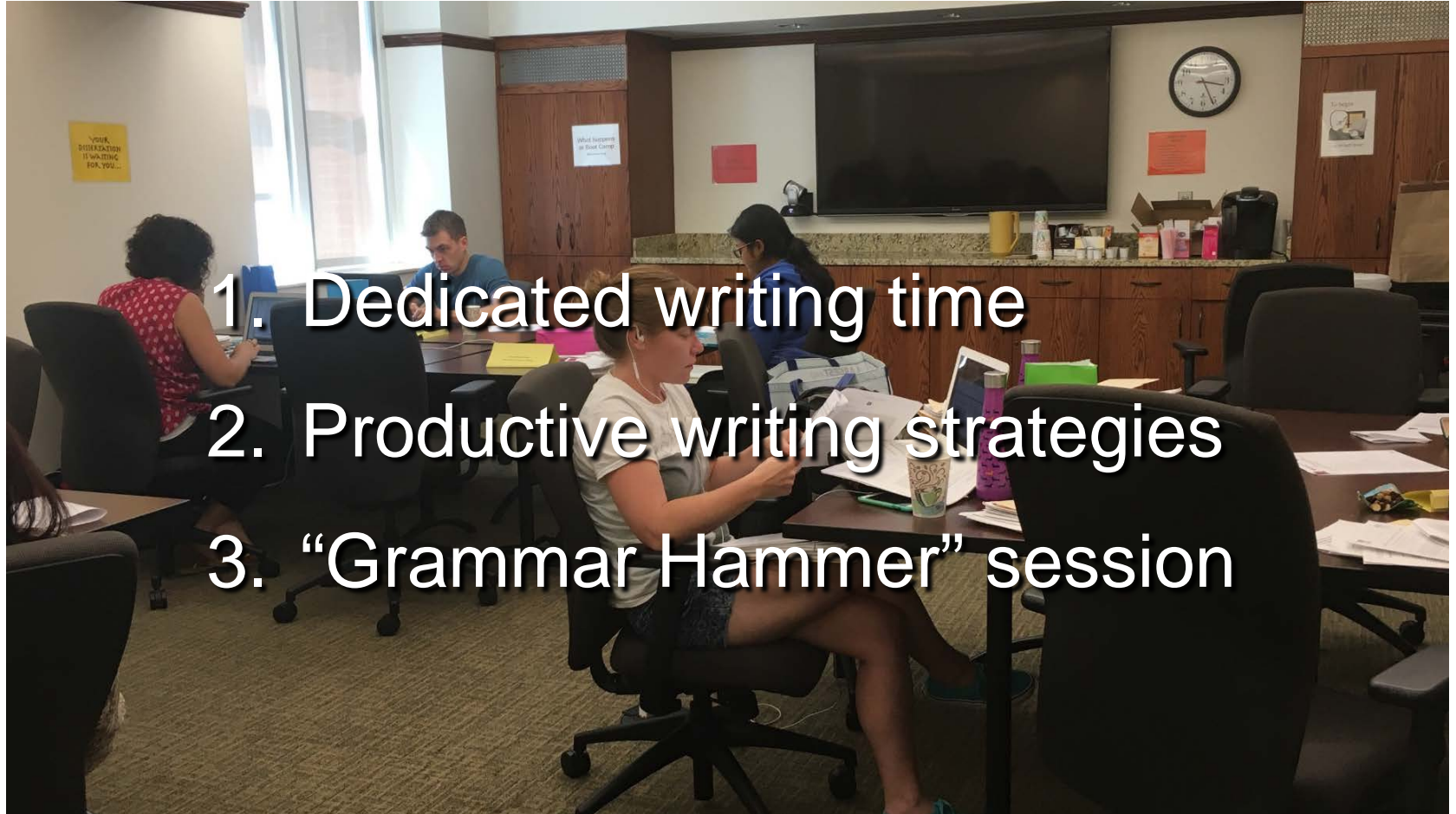
Typical Day at Boot Camp

A mix of group and individual work time

- Group sessions
 - ✓ To develop strategies for productive writing
 - ✓ To set daily goals and review the day's accomplishments (or obstacles)
- Mini-workshops and/or the opportunity to work with a writing consultant
- At least 5 hours of dedicated writing time (provides a feel for a productive writing schedule and what it can accomplish)
- Optional writing time before and after scheduled activities



Aspects of Dissertation Boot Camp that Participants found Most Useful



1. Dedicated writing time

2. Productive writing strategies

3. "Grammar Hammer" session

Boot Camp Participants were asked,
“Why didn’t more students from your
program sign up for boot camp?”

- They haven’t finished collecting data.
- They didn’t think their advisor would let them spend 4 days away from the lab.



Most Common Question Posed by Faculty:

“What do they need that for?”

Most Effective Answer:

“Data show that participating in Dissertation Boot Camp promotes timely degree completion.”



My Advice

- Partner with someone – writing center, other faculty, library staff, etc.
- Start small. Don't be too ambitious.
- Get advice from someone with experience.





University of NebraskaSM Medical Center Questions?

