

WRITING CENTER ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

BECAUSE EVERY WRITER NEEDS A READER

CSBSJU Writing Center Mission Statement

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University's Writing Center exists to help students write better papers and become better writers. We offer an informational atmosphere where students can bring questions to their peers. Our one-on-one sessions allow both the tutor and the student to work through procedures and strategies in order to help improve the student's writing abilities. We are resources in all stages of the writing process, from brain-storming to perfecting a final draft. We do not proofread papers; rather, we believe in the value of teaching students how to brainstorm, how to organize their thoughts, how to clarify their assertions, how to recognize and fix their grammar mistakes, and so on. We believe in teaching students skills they can use in all their writing. Each session is intended to reach beyond a specific assignment.



What We Do

Writing Center peer tutors conduct one-on-one appointments with undergraduate students to assist them in any type of writing. Students reserve either a 30-minute or 60-minute appointment with an available tutor. Tutors work with students at any point in the writing process and adapt to each individual student's needs and requests. The Writing Center emphasizes global concerns for writing rather than sentence-level issues, but also helps with mechanics. Our goal is to help students write stronger papers; we do not edit the papers for them. After the appointment is finished, tutors record information about the appointment and send an email to the faculty in charge of the assignment (unless requested not to by the student) covering what was worked on.

Writing tutors also lead small group workshops in the classroom to introduce students to the Writing Center and assist with their writing. Tutors met with 40 classes this past academic year.



Student Usage Summary

“[The Writing Tutor] was very helpful in suggestions, and she gave me suggestions that I could use in all of my papers in the future and suggestions for just my one paper which was nice to have.” –Writing Center Client

2018-19 Statistics

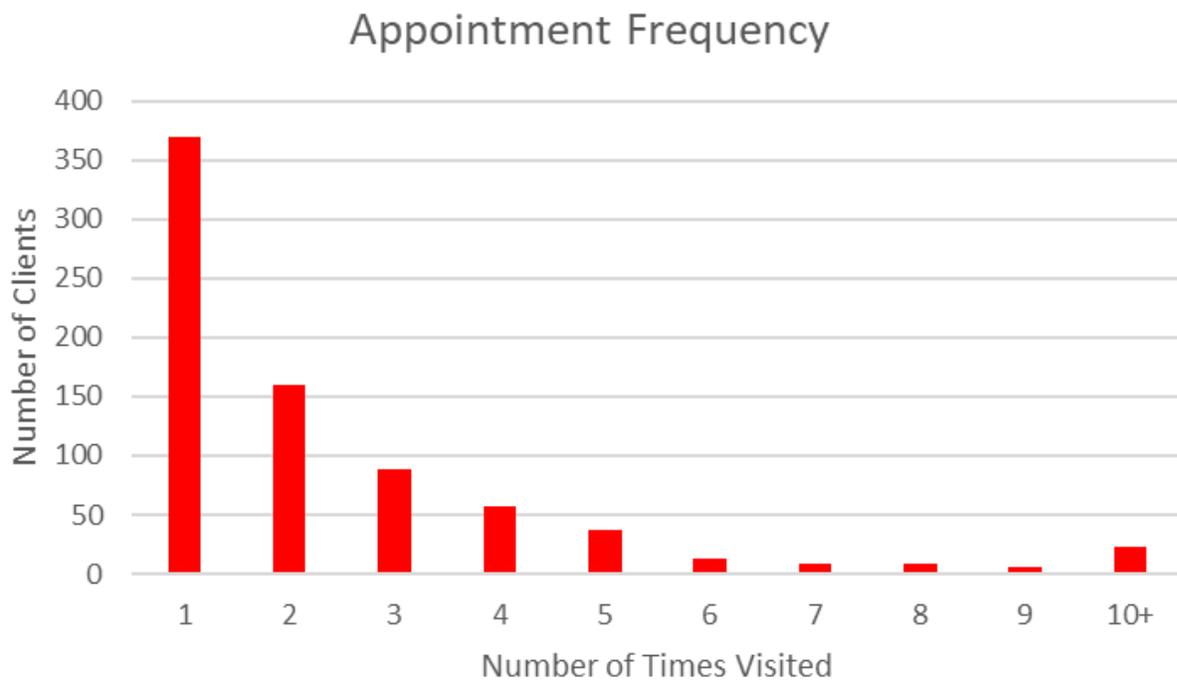
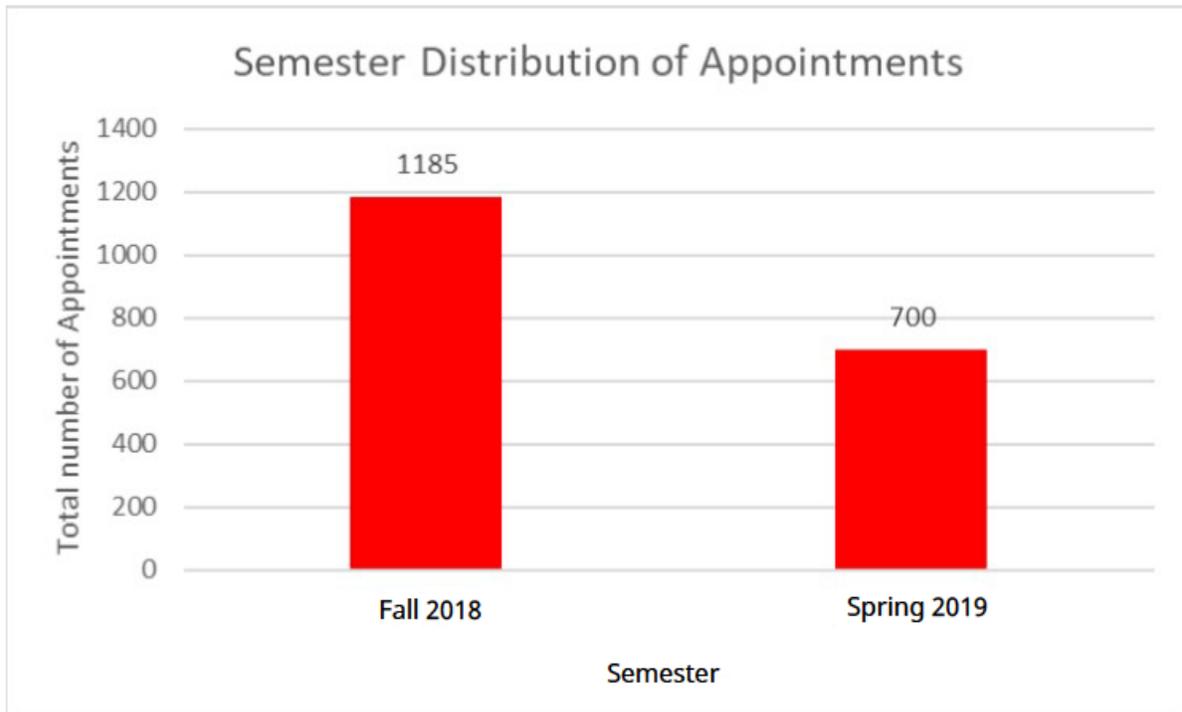
In the 2018-2019 academic year, 1,885 total appointments were conducted at the Writing Center, with 1084 on the Saint Ben's campus and 801 on the Saint John's campus. The majority of the students using the Writing Center were first-years (85%), a total similar to previous years. More appointments were made in the fall semester than in the spring, with the fall having 1,185 appointments and the spring having 700 students respectively. The total number of students that used the Writing Center was 25% of the student body.¹

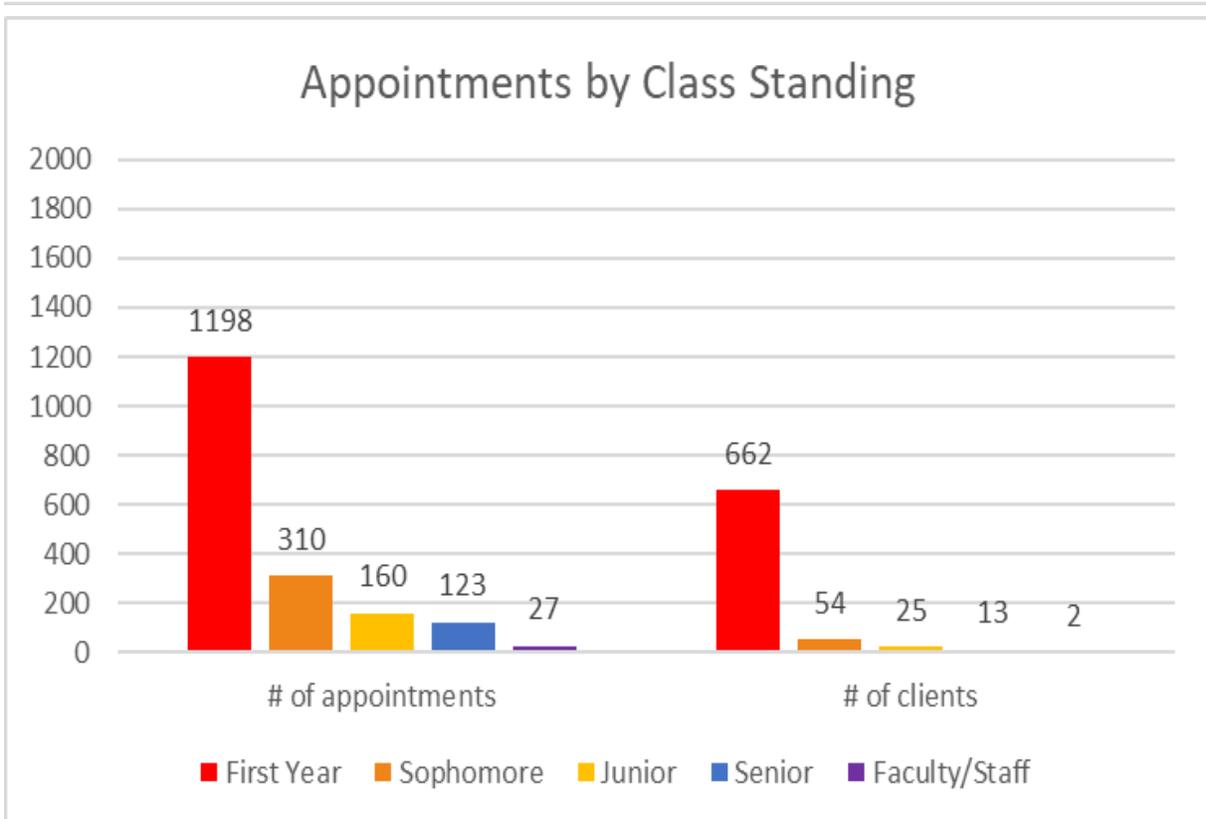
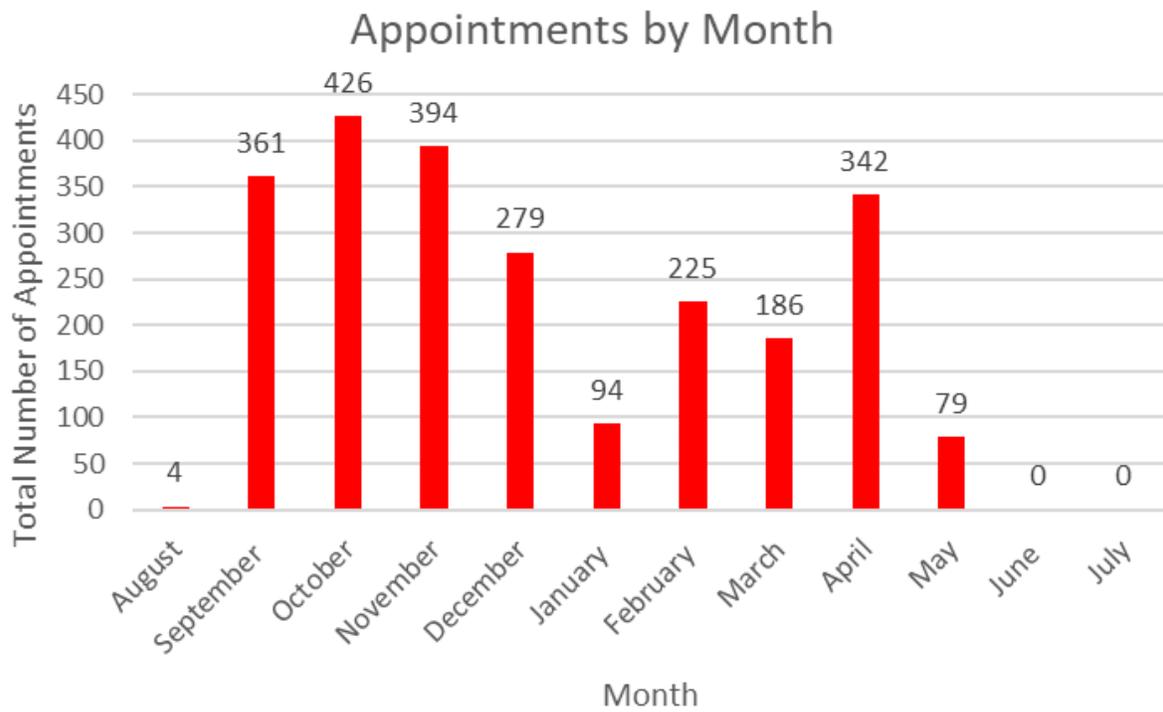
48% of all the appointments come from students who visit the Writing Centers one time while 52% of students visited 2 or more times. Student usage ranges from 21% of students returning twice to 3% of students returning 10 or more times.

60% of students using the Writing Centers were from CSB and 39% percent were from SJU, with 1% coming from faculty/staff or the Graduate School of Theology on the Saint John's campus.

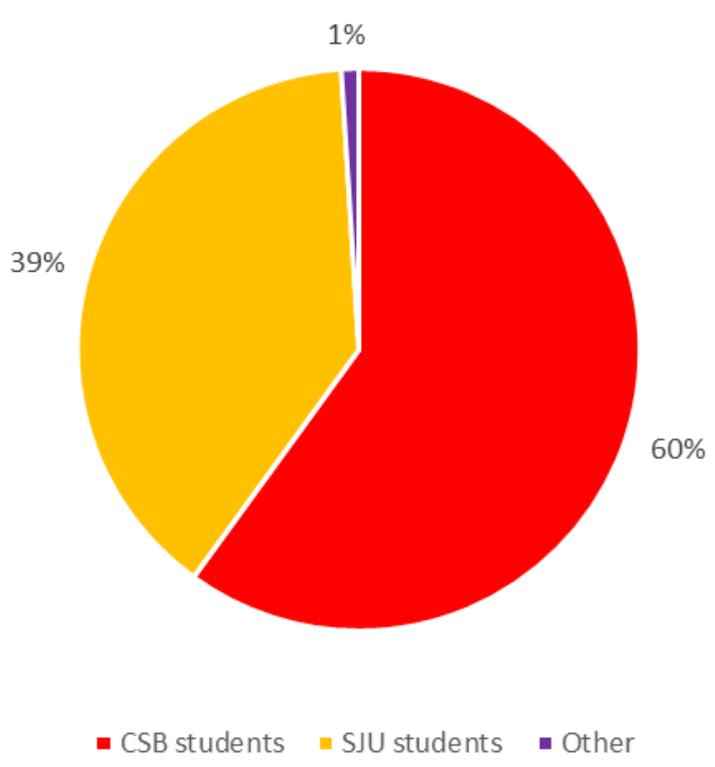


1. This usage rate is above the average for 4-year institutions our size in the United States (National Census of Writing, 2012).

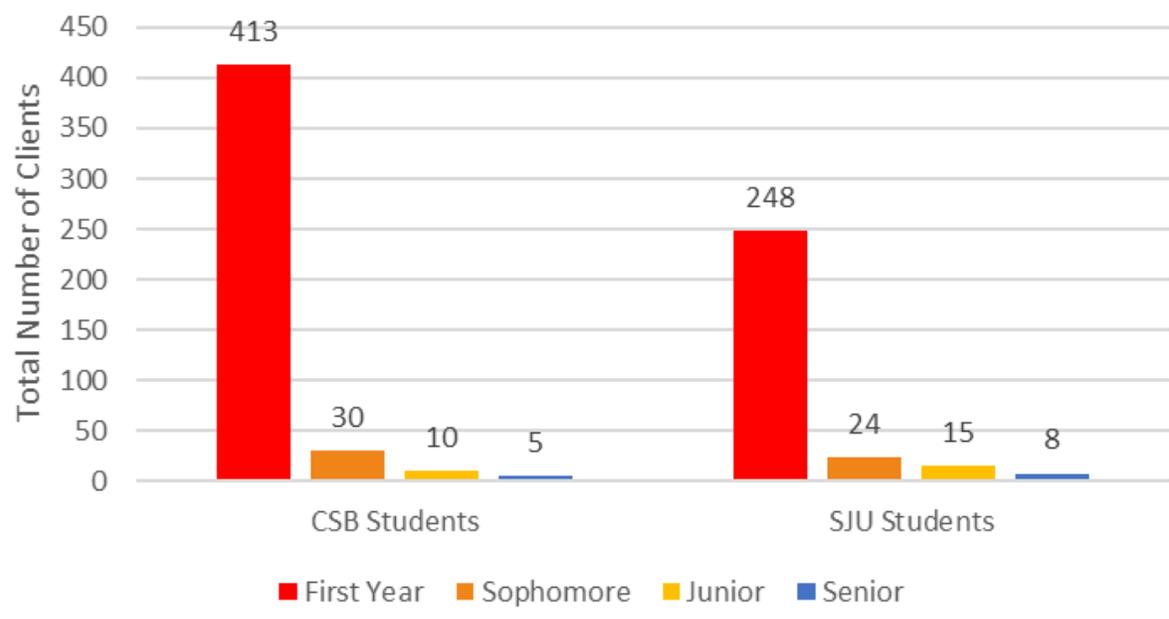


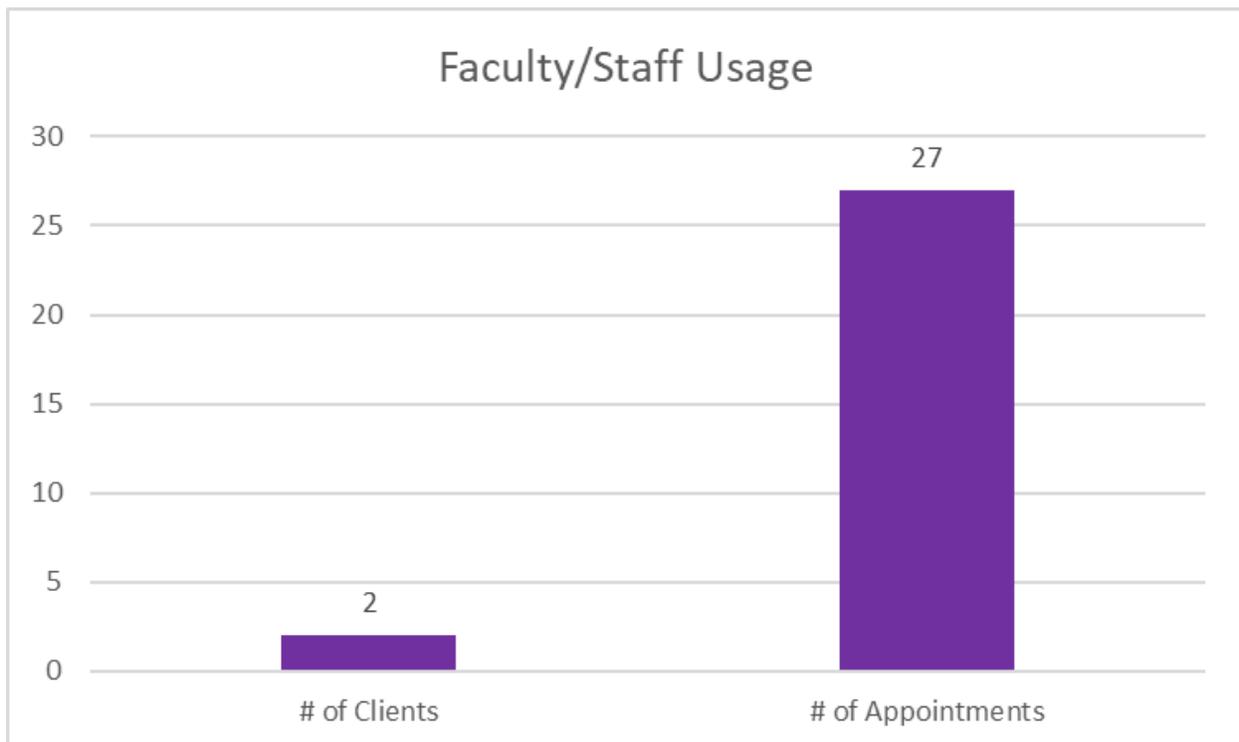
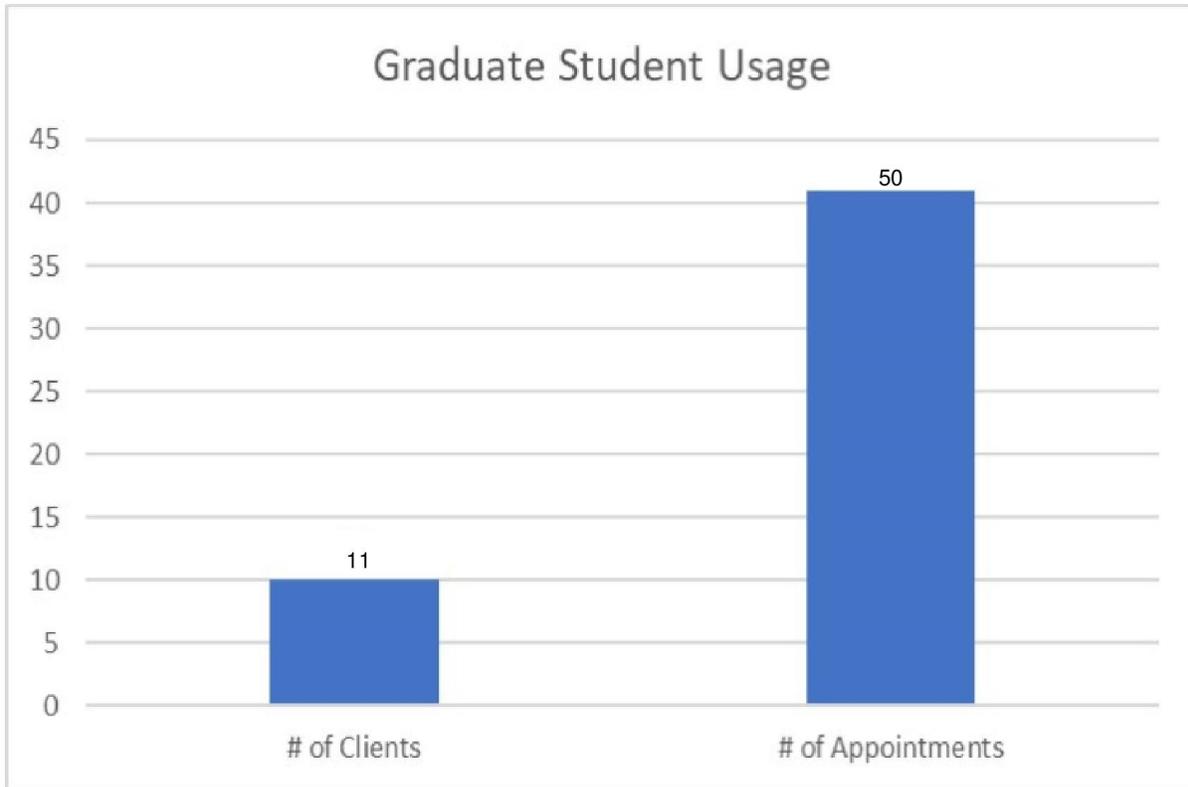


Client Demographics

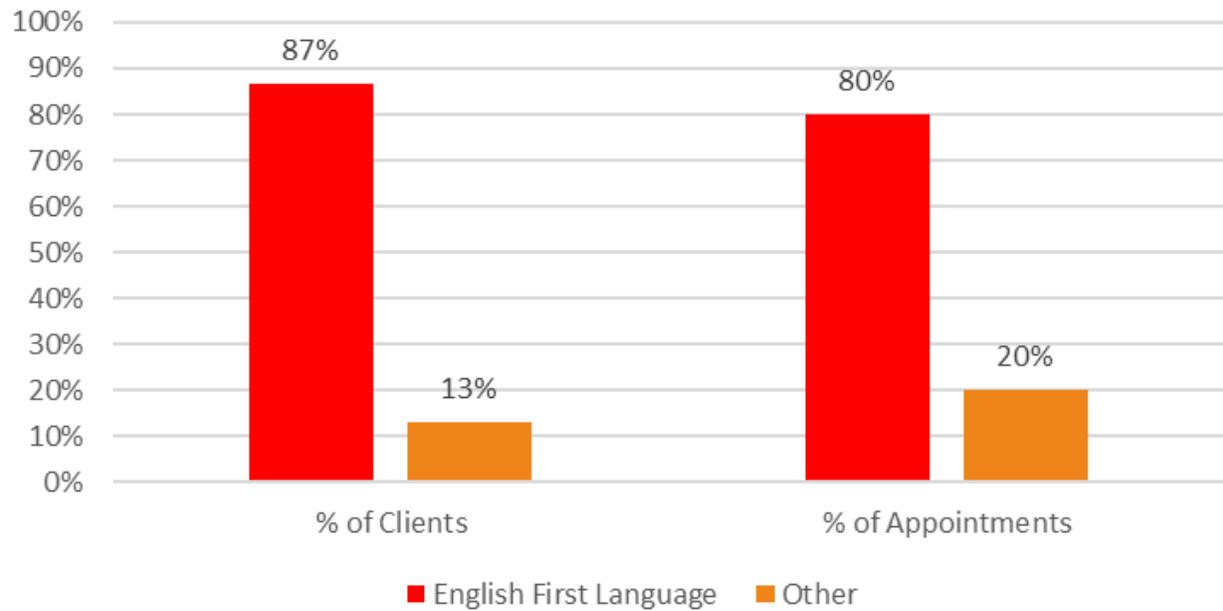


Student Usage by Class Standing and School





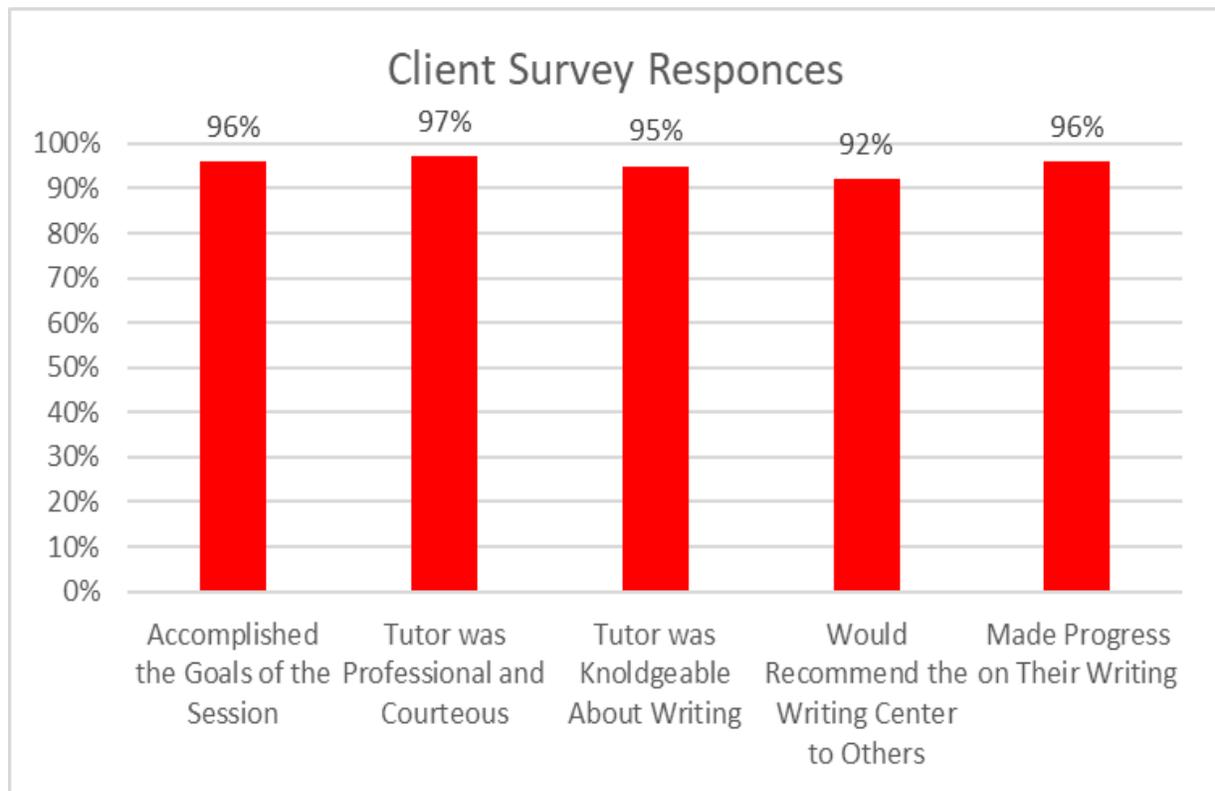
ELL Student Distribution



“This was my first time in the writing center, and I am so glad I made my appointment. I’m thankful for having a tutor who helped answer all of my questions and helped to the best of her ability. She answered my questions, made suggestions in my writing and sent me with ideas to think about while finishing my writing assignment.” – Writing Center Client

Assessment

Writing Center Appointments are recorded in an online scheduling system called WOnline, where clients can reserve appointments and tutors can get information about the appointment to prepare for the client. After each appointment, a survey is sent out to the client asking about their experience in the Writing Center; 227 clients responded to the survey with the majority having overwhelmingly positive responses. The survey also gave the option to leave comments about the tutor and session and the majority of comments were positive. Constructive criticisms are reviewed to enhance the experience of clients in the future.



“[The Writing Tutor] definitely helped my essay. She was very respectful and helped me a lot. She also told me to read my essay out loud which is not something I do a lot, but will do in the future because it helped me correct the mistakes in it.” –Writing Center Client

CSB/SJU



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