

JANUARY 2010 DISSERTATION BOOT CAMP

Call for Participants

The Office of Graduate and Professional Education is partnering with the Writing Program to offer an intensive workshop for PhD students who are writing their first dissertation chapters or have found their writing progress stalled.

This workshop, adapted from similar programs at the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford, Temple, and Yale, builds from the success of previous boot camps offered at UD during the Winter and Summer terms. Participants will spend the majority of their time writing; however, the workshop will also include brief discussions on topics of common interest to dissertation students, such as goal setting, time management, and the writing habits of successful and prolific academic writers. Students accepted to this program will commit to attending a writing session from 10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, for two consecutive weeks.

The workshop will be offered **January 11—22, 2010**. Writing Program faculty will provide time, space, and professional tutorial support to help students progress on their projects. Food will also be provided.

As part of the application process, faculty advisors must nominate their students for this workshop with a brief e-mail. In addition, participants will write a brief proposal (no more than 300 words) explaining what they will produce during the workshop. Applicants will be chosen based upon time to degree completion and the importance of the workshop at this stage of the project. Applications are due November 1st, and should be e-mailed to Michael McCamley at mccamley@udel.edu.

Here is what previous participants had to say:

“The boot camp was helpful because it got me into the routine of writing everyday and forced me to evaluate my writing process and figure out what works and does not work for me.”

“I wish I had attended something similar at the beginning stages of my dissertation—it would have really helped me ‘visualize’ (and not be frightened of) the writing process. But, it was completely helpful to a mid-stage writer too as a way to revive momentum.”

“Figuring out how to write a dissertation in (almost!) fifteen minutes a day was priceless. When I’m not writing, I’m at least thinking, outlining, and organizing every day. I hold the boot camp at fault for this aberrantly responsible behavior. Arguably, I probably advanced down my writing timeline a good 1—2 months (at previous pace) in just the first 2 days—all from talking through my thesis ideas at the boot camp.”