Workshops Fall 2020

Attendance at any Student Learning Commons workshop or having viewed any online webinar recording is eligible for inclusion on your Co-Curricular Record. To receive Co-Curricular credits, fill out the Webinar Reflection Form for CCR.

For more information on the CCR, visit: www.sfu.ca/students/get-involved/recognition/co-curricular-record.html

The Student Learning Commons will be offering virtual workshops throughout the Fall 2020 semester. Workshops will be offered live at the dates and times listed below. After the live session, webinar recordings will be available to view at: https://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/branches-depts/slc/offer/slc-workshops/webinar-recordings

Getting Ready for Academic Success—Online!

Monday to Friday, August 31 to September 4, at 1:00pm — 3:00pm, Webinar via Zoom
This week-long event will take place online. A Zoom link that can be used for all sessions will be sent to registrants.

The first semester of university is usually associated with things like adjusting to large lecture halls, juggling a busy class schedule with other life commitments, finding your way around campus, navigating the large library, and hopefully connecting with some new and old friends. But how does this change when most of your learning and studying takes place online in your own workspace? Although studying online can offer some great perks like flexibility and a very easy commute, it can also require new strategies for keeping up with schoolwork, engaging with material, and getting help if you get stuck. Not to worry! This week-long workshop series is especially designed to help NEW undergraduate students get ready for remote university learning.

Top 5 Things to Know about University Writing

Saturday, September 12, 11:00am — 12:00pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
This 50-minute session reviews the top 5 things most useful to know about academic writing. The rest of the session is dedicated to answering your burning questions (no matter how basic or complex) about academic writing and writing in the disciplines. You’ll take away some answers, including where to find more help when you need it! Webinars will be 30-45 minutes, with the remaining time for open discussion. This webinar may be recorded for later use.
Top 5 Academic Success Strategies for Online Success

Monday, September 14, 11:30am — 12:20pm, Webinar via Zoom
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
Do you want to learn how to succeed in your online courses? This workshop is for you! In 50-minutes we will cover the basics of effective time management, reading, studying and online learning. It will be a great investment in your time, and will give you the confidence you need to succeed academically online. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

EAL WORKSHOP SERIES

Attend all sessions.

Academic Writing and Grammar for Multilingual Learners (EAL)
Mondays at 7:00pm — 9:00pm, September 14 to November 23, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Invitation to join the Bb Collaborate (Canvas) webinars will be provided to registrants
This seminar-style workshop series combines grammar for academic purposes, critical thinking, and academic writing for university. The main writing task is to produce a self-report (narrative) that stimulates participants to restructure their understanding of the nexus between language, culture, and identity. Students will complete reading, writing, and grammar tasks, all of which will be used to provide personalized feedback. Open to undergraduate students only.

Academic Writing for Graduate Students
Tuesdays at 10:30am — 12:20pm, September 15 to December 1, Webinar via Zoom
Invitation to join the Bb Collaborate (Canvas) webinars will be provided to registrants
This seminar-style workshop series is designed for multilingual graduate students with English as a non-dominant language. Workshop activities include richly varied writing, reading, and language-specific tasks designed to develop academic writers. Participants will learn how to apply their analytical skills to the discourses of their chosen disciplines and explore how effective academic writing in Western scholarly tradition is achieved.

Grammar Choices for Graduate Students and Professional Writers
Thursdays at 2:30pm — 4:20pm, September 17 to November 26, Webinar via Zoom
Invitation to join the Bb Collaborate (Canvas) webinars will be provided to registrants
This seminar style workshop is designed for multilingual graduate students with English as a non-dominant language. Grammar is presented through a functional description of the language resources that can be used to create meaning clearly, communicate with the reader appropriately, and organize a message effectively.

Success Strategies for Online Courses during COVID-19
Tuesday, September 15, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
Other workshops this term will cover time management and study strategies that will serve you well whether you are taking in-person or online courses. This webinar, however, will discuss particular challenges of, and effective approaches to, the current situation in which all of your courses are online. This webinar may be recorded for later use.
Time Management for Academic Success

Wednesday, September 16, 11:30am — 12:20pm, Webinar via Zoom

Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Does it seem that you can never find enough time to study? Or despite your best intentions, something always distracts you from studying? Or are you concerned that managing your time at University might be different than high school, and you want to be prepared. Attend this workshop to build skills to help you live by your priorities in and out of University, and discover tools to help you focus on the task at hand. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

The Plurilingual Café

Thursdays at 12:30pm—1:20pm, September 17 to November 19, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)

Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

This weekly workshop recognizes and celebrates the rich plurality of EAL students' everyday language practices and interactions. Tasks are designed to support student learning by fostering intercultural awareness among the participants, offering opportunities to learn more about each other’s languages and cultures, and by creating spaces for the use of languages other than English as tools for learning.

Study Strategies that Work!

Friday, September 18, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom

Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Do you want to optimize the effectiveness of the time you devote to studying? Come learn which study strategies are most strongly supported by research, and how to maximize your focus while studying. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

How I Succeeded in Online Courses

Monday, September 21, 2:30pm — 4:00pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)

Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Is this your first full term of university-level online courses? Or do you want to develop better strategies than you might have used in your first few remote or online courses? The students telling their stories in this webinar succeeded in their online courses - even courses that suddenly became online last March! They will share their best advice to help you succeed too, and there will be time for questions. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Let’s Talk!

Tuesdays at 12:30pm—1:20pm, September 22 to November 24, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)

Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

This weekly workshop gives students for whom English is an additional language an opportunity outside of class to improve their English conversation skills, learn strategies for academic success, and have fun meeting people. Participants will develop their conversation and listening skills through a variety of topics, such as stereotypes, slang and idioms, social media, Canadian and global culture, presentation skills, pronunciation, and story-telling.
LANGUAGE STRATEGIES FOR MULTILINGUAL WRITERS SERIES

Attend any workshop or the whole series.

Structuring Ideas Through Grammar (EAL)
   Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00pm — 8:00pm, Webinar via Zoom
   Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
Learn how to improve the clarity, logic, and flow of your writing.

Grammar Brush Up
   Wednesday, October 7 at 4:30pm — 5:20pm , Webinar via Zoom
   Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
Learn to improve the accuracy of your writing by reviewing the building blocks of grammar: clause structure, noun phrase structure, word forms, and verbs and complements.

Clause Combination: Restrictive and Non-Restrictive Clauses
   Wednesday, October 21 at 4:30pm — 5:20pm , Webinar via Zoom
   Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
The difference between restrictive and non-restrictive is important and can change the meaning of a sentence. Learn techniques for using both types effectively in your writing.

Noun Clauses and Integrating Evidence
   Wednesday, November 4 at 4:30pm — 5:20pm , Webinar via Zoom
   Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
Learn to improve how you integrate evidence by using noun clauses (dependent clauses introduced with that, if, whether, or another wh-word) to report what others think or have said when introducing a paraphrase, summary, or quotation.

Verb Forms
   Wednesday, November 18 at 4:30pm — 5:20pm , Webinar via Zoom
   Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
Did you know that only three tenses—simple present (70%), past (23%), and perfect (5%) — account for the majority of tensed phrases in academic writing? Learn to use these tenses effectively in your writing.

Writing Without Procrastination
   Wednesday, September 23, 7:00pm — 8:00pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
   Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
This session takes a time management approach to the writing process. It is intended to help you break your writing up into steps and get started. It will also introduce useful writing tools such as the assignment calculator and the pomodoro technique. Webinars will be 30-45 minutes, with the remaining time for open discussion. This webinar may be recorded for later use.
Note-Taking for Reading and Online Lectures

Thursday, September 24, 9:30am — 10:20am, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

With lectures recorded, slides provided in advance, and many textbooks electronic, note-taking may seem to be an obsolete skill. Yet effective note-taking in class and while reading serves many purposes including helping you focus, helping you separate main concepts from details and tangents, checking your understanding, capturing ideas for assignments, and simply reducing the volume of material you need to study later. Effective note-taking can be learned and is built through practice. Join us to level up your note-taking. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Improve Your Concentration & Reading Effectiveness

Friday, September 25, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Do you drift off while reading and find that you don’t retain much? Or do you get distracted easily in lectures or while trying to study? Join this workshop to hear how you can read effectively and improve your concentration. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Critical Reading & Thinking

Monday, September 28, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Professors and TAs often talk about the need to think critically but few actually explain what critical thinking is or how to do it. We will define critical thinking and how you can train yourself to ask meaningful and relevant questions that promote critical thinking when you’re reading. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

How to Succeed in Quantitative Courses

Tuesday, September 29, 11:30am — 12:20pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Are university-level quantitative courses harder than you thought? Attend this workshop, developed by a college math instructor, to learn how to gain the deep understanding needed to solve even the trickiest exam problem. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Giving Effective Online Presentations

Thursday, October 1, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Are you giving an online presentation this term? Strong presentations are made up of 3 components - content, visuals and delivery. Learn strategies to make your content stand out, your visuals resonate, and your delivery impress. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

How I Raised my GPA

Monday, October 5, 2:30pm — 4:00pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Trying to raise your GPA? Need some inspiration? Tune into this event and listen to other students or recent graduates from various Faculties tell their stories of how they successfully raised their grades. There will be plenty of time for questions. This webinar will be recorded for later use.
Managing Procrastination in your Online Courses  
Tuesday, October 6, 11:30am — 12:20pm, Webinar via Zoom  
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Procrastination is something that most students do. Today our learning environments are online, with stress, isolation and a lack of structure common. We are all struggling to stay productive! Join us in breaking the isolation and talking about how to manage procrastination even under the most adverse circumstances. This workshop will help you understand the cycle of procrastination, and then offer you strategies on how you can get moving and productive again. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Argumentative Essays: Templates to Strengthen your Writing  
Wednesday, October 7, 12:30pm — 1:20pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)  
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Effective argumentation is a core requirement of many writing assignments across the disciplines. Yet it isn’t always clear what an academic argument is or how you should write one. In this 50-minute session, you’ll learn the particular rules governing academic argumentation. This workshop will also introduce a number of templates that you can use to clearly and effectively structure and defend your written arguments. Webinars will be 30-45 minutes, with the remaining time for open discussion. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Working Effectively in Online Groups  
Friday, October 9, 10:30am — 11:20am, Webinar via Zoom  
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

Do you dread group projects? Learn how to create a positive team experience remotely by planning ahead, leveraging the strengths of each group member, setting ground rules, and learning how to deal productively with conflict. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Successful (Online) Exam Writing  
Wednesday, October 14, 11:30am — 12:20pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas) OR  
Friday, November 27, 1:30pm—2:20pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)  
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join either live session

Are exams coming up? Do you want to improve on your midterm experience? This workshop is organized around evidence-based research on exam preparation, as well as a Summer 2020 survey about the most common types of online exams among SFU Undergraduates (1. forced order multiple choice and 2. Open book) and students' most common concerns: running out of time, exam anxiety, and technical issues. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Reading for Writing, Presentation, and Discussions  
Wednesday, October 21, 1:30pm — 2:20pm, Webinar via Zoom  
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session

To prepare for a paper, presentation or class discussion, you need to strike a good balance between using your sources with academic integrity, and expressing your own perspective based on those sources. Reading strategies, therefore, need to be very different that when you are reading to prepare for a test. Come to this workshop to learn how to read effectively with this purpose in mind. This webinar may be recorded for later use.
Writing a Research Paper

Saturday, October 24, 11:00am — 12:00pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
So, you have to write a research paper. This session will introduce you to steps to help you effectively organize and communicate the research you have conducted. It will also introduce tips for writing a clear thesis for a research-based paper. Webinars will be 30-45 minutes, with the remaining time for open discussion. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Multimodal Writing

Wednesday, November 4, 7:00pm — 8:00pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
This session will introduce you to a number of different writing modes including blogging, podcasting, and webcasting. We will focus on the principles that are unique to writing for each of these modalities, as well as on the aspects of writing that apply across the board. Webinars will be 30-45 minutes, with the remaining time for open discussion. This webinar may be recorded for later use.

Hot Tips for Revising

Saturday, November 21, 11:00am — 12:00pm, Webinar via Bb Collaborate (Canvas)
Please check the online workshop registration page for the link to join this live session
Congratulations--you've drafted your paper! What's next? This workshop overviews a technique of revising higher-order concerns, then looking at the finer details of your piece. You'll also learn more about common errors that can trip up even strong writers. Webinars will be 30-45 minutes, with the remaining time for open discussion. This webinar may be recorded for later use.