Sweetland Center for Writing

THE POWER

The Gayle Morris Sweetland Center for Writing was established to ensure that all LSA students have opportunities to learn to write well. Founded on the concept that writing is central to the mission of the College, the Center takes a comprehensive approach by tutoring students in their writing, supporting faculty in their course development, and conducting research on the pedagogy of writing in order to develop the most effective methods for teaching. Highly successful in its efforts, the Writing Center is becoming a national leader in the pedagogy of writing.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

The Sweetland Center for Writing offers a broad range of support to U-M students and faculty who are interested in improving their writing—peer tutoring, writing workshops, courses at all levels, oversight of all courses

Our largest-ever fundraising campaign is ambitious, visionary, purposeful — worthy of the name “Victors.” The $400 million goal is built upon the cornerstone of the liberal arts: the idea that a powerful, pragmatic education can transform hearts and minds, can solve problems in a changing world, can yield ideas and innovation across every discipline. That’s why we are focused on raising money so that the best and brightest minds can have access to the College through robust scholarship support, no matter their financial circumstances. So too are we committed to helping every student acquire not just knowledge in the classroom, but experiences outside the academy including innovative entrepreneurial efforts and internships. We strive to support our faculty on the front-lines of research, and steward our planet, our community, our campus. To do all this, and so much more, the College needs you — because the world needs Victors.
fulfilling the first-year and upper-level writing requirements, a minor in writing, outreach to faculty, support for dissertation writers, and a seminar on writing in the disciplines. Looking ahead, the Center would like to enhance its offerings with a greater focus on disciplinary writing, particularly in the natural sciences.

THE IMPACT
A generous gift from alumnus John Sweetland provided the seed money to establish the Center. Now an integral part of the College, the Center seeks to expand its activities through private support. Key areas in need of funding include resources to create a Writing to Learn Science Program. In addition, the Center is striving to inspire faculty and lecturers by providing awards for exceptional teaching and financial support for developing state-of-the-art curriculum.

WRITING TO LEARN SCIENCE PROGRAM
$2M endowed/$90,000 annually
The Center has conducted research in introductory chemistry and physics courses (the gateway courses for STEM areas) that shows student learning of key concepts is improved when writing is integrated into instruction. Using tools of learning analytics, the Center is prepared to develop an innovative program of instruction in introductory science courses that will revolutionize teaching at U-M and help address the paucity of U.S. undergraduates who major in STEM areas.

NAMED AWARD FOR TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS IN UPPER-LEVEL WRITING INSTRUCTION
$300,000 endowed/$15,000 annually
To recognize teaching excellence and outstanding commitment to promoting good writing in courses that meet the UpperLevel Writing Requirement (ULWR), we would like to establish a named annual award that would be presented to a faculty member, lecturer, or graduate student instructor who has excelled in teaching or assisting in a ULWR course. One or more awards would be presented each year. This award would increase the visibility of the ULWR and encourage teaching excellence.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT FUNDS
$10,000 to $50,000 annually
To keep the Center’s courses and services up to date, regular curriculum development is essential. We seek funding to support Sweetland faculty who work on specific projects, such as investigating new digital technologies to update writing methods in new media courses, revising the rubric used to evaluate the electronic portfolios produced by students in Sweetland’s Minor in Writing, or developing a course to support international undergraduates in the Upper-Level Writing Requirement course.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT
Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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