**WRITING CENTER AND EDITING SERVICES – FAQs**

How far in advance must I submit a paper for editing?

Due to scheduling, editors need at least 48 hours (two days) to complete papers under 10 pages, and 72 hours (three days) for 10-20 pages. Requests for papers over 20 pages are on a case-by-case basis (4 or more business days). Completion is timed from receipt of request, not including holidays or weekends, and editing requests are received during business hours between 9 am and 5 pm.

How many pages can an editor review in an hour ($15) of editing?

Timeframes for editing vary, depending on the level of editing requested, and the condition of the paper submitted. Here are estimates:

* *Proofreading* a paper (well-written overall with minimal footnote/bibliography changes i.e., commas, periods, parenthesis, etc.): 8-10 double-spaced pages edited per hour.
* *Focused editing* of a paper (requires a thorough review but only in one focus area, i.e., only Turabian/APA citations or only grammar): 6-8 double-spaced pages per hour.
* *Full editing* of a paper (includes formatting, citations, sentence structure, grammar, syntax): 4-6 double-spaced pages per hour.

https://webmail.densem.edu/owa/14.2.247.5/themes/resources/clear1x1.gif

Will I get an “A” on my paper edited by the Writing Center?

Editors cannot guarantee a particular grade. They can provide guidelines, writing tips, and help with grammar or technical issues such as citations. Additionally, the editors do not know the preferences of individual professors and so our edits and margin notes will be based on our best interpretation of the Turabian or APA style manuals. (Also, see comments on student’s ‘voice’ below.)

Why didn’t the editor correct all the mistakes in my paper?

Depending on the time allotted for the edit, an editor may not correct every mistake in areas such as grammar, citations, bibliography, etc. If there are repeated errors, the editor may correct only the first several instances, and then will provide guidelines in how to edit the remainder of the problem areas. It is the student's responsibility to follow the pattern of the first corrections into the rest of their paper.

Why wasn’t my English and/or writing style “perfected” by the editor?

Typically, an editor will make corrections for obvious mistakes, but will not rewrite or reword the sentences into ‘perfect’ English language, form, or writing. The editor may instead suggest that you review certain paragraphs in order to edit down repetitive or run-on sentences, or to expand your vocabulary usage. Editors have been asked to retain the style and “voice” of each student. For example, if the phrases, flow, and meaning are fairly clear, the editor will not “perfect” your writing, but will allow it to remain a true representation of your own style of writing.

Will an editor provide feedback on whether I met all of the syllabus requirements in the content of my paper?

Generally speaking, No. Editing is more technical in nature (focus areas i.e., grammar or footnotes) and not content based, since it is up to the student to make sure he or she covers each part of the assignment comprehensively, per the syllabus instructions, with thorough research and a strong thesis or argument. In other words, the editor will not add comments such as, "Are you sure you fully covered the historical background section?" or "You might want to expand on verse 2 in terms of literary context." (However, these are the kinds of issues that could be addressed in a one-on-one tutoring session.)

What does the Writing Center see as the main goal for offering editing services to students?

While the Writing Center provides many services, the main goal of editing is for the student to need editing services less and less as they progress in their academic studies. In order to take full advantage of professional editing, students should plan on taking some time to review the editor's changes and comments. During their own final edit, the student can improve their current paper, while practicing writing style and form for future papers.