

WPA-GO Master's Student Representative

(an Executive Board member position on the Graduate Committee)

Applications due November 30, 2020



We invite applications for the position of Master's Student Representative in the Writing Program Administrators Graduate Organization (WPA-GO) for the next cycle. The position will become effective January 15th, 2021. The representative will be asked to officially serve for one year (spanning Spring 2021 through the end of Fall 2021), and to serve as a mentor to the next Master's Rep in Spring 2022. The Master's Student Representative position is a member of the Executive Board of the Graduate Committee.

WPA-GO works with the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) to support graduate student WPA preparation and to strengthen connections between graduate students and professional WPAs. We are committed to continually increasing our diversity and inclusion initiatives, including maintaining the robust participation of master's degree-seeking students who bring unique perspectives and insights to our organization. Serving as a Master's Student Representative is an excellent opportunity to gain experience facilitating WPA-GO initiatives and learning about WPA work, while being mentored by fellow graduate committee members.

According to the WPA-GO Bylaws, the Master's Student Representative is responsible for:

- a. Representing WPA-related issues and concerns pertaining to the graduate student experience at the master's student level in all CWPA GC and WPA-GO activities.
- b. Overseeing and providing feedback on WPA-GO documents (e.g., AY calendars, committee and final EB reports; calls for elections and travel grants, criteria for evaluating election materials and travel grant applications) for master's degree-seeking constituencies.
- c. Participating in subcommittees and task forces according to their interests.

All Graduate Committee Members (Chair, Vice Chair, GC Members, Executive Board GC Members) are responsible for:

- a. Promoting WPA-GO at their home institutions, at conferences, and online by sharing important notices and promotional materials.
- b. Consulting with Chair and Vice Chair on decisions including appointment of incoming Vice Chair, recipient of Service Award (CWPA), and other initiatives as presented by the Chair and Vice Chair.
- c. Detailing individual committee goals and plans for the academic year (AY) as necessary or as requested by GC members.
- d. CCCC and CWPA responsibilities:
 - i. Attending all GC semi-annual meetings at CCCC and CWPA (at a time determined by the GC Chairs through a polling of convenient times) from the CWPA Conference of the year of their election through to the one of the year that their terms end. GC members who miss more than two meetings over the course of their term or who, in general, do not fulfill their expected duties as outlined below may be asked by the Chairs or the CWPA President to resign.
 - ii. Reporting semi-annually in advance of CCCC and CWPA EB Reports to the GC Chair and Vice Chair.
 - iii. Representing WPA-GO at the CCCC general Graduate Student SIG, should one be scheduled.
 - iv. Representing WPA-GO at the CWPA GO-specific SIG, should one be scheduled.

Past WPA experience is NOT REQUIRED to become Master's Student Representative of WPA-GO. In fact, serving in this capacity is a great way to gain WPA experience, network and learn from both grad student WPAs and professional WPAs, and gain a grasp of the field. In fact, many who serve on the WPA-GO Graduate Committee go on to serve on the CWPA Executive Board. *Self-nominations are strongly encouraged. Graduate students from nondominant communities are strongly encouraged to apply.*

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be a graduate student enrolled in an MA program, in good standing at their institution.

- So that official service does not overlap with the first or last semester of an MA program, it is suggested that the Master's Student Representative begin their service as they are entering their second semester. In the case of MA programs longer than 2 years, we welcome candidates entering their 4th semester.

Selection Criteria:

- Election to Executive Board positions is still an internal voting process due to time constraints this year; however, we hope to open it to the general membership within the next two years.
- The position of Master's Student Representative is a significant time commitment. The MA Rep must be prepared to devote at least four to six (4-6) hours per month to WPA-GO duties during slow times, and more hours during busy times (e.g., planning for CCCC and CWPA conferences).
- Applicants for MA Rep should possess a desire to learn more about Writing Program Administration and to collaborate with colleagues across institutions. Additionally, ideal candidates should have a demonstrated commitment to equity work.

To apply for the WPA-GO Vice Chair position, please submit the following to wpago1@gmail.com by 11:59pm CST on November 30, 2020:

- a. Name, institution, program, semester in program/ how many semesters you have left.
- b. Brief bio and statement (to be submitted as a Word document or Google doc).
 - i. **Brief Bio:** In no more than 200 words, please share your educational background, interests, and aspirations. You are also encouraged to include your race, gender, class, ability, migrant status, and/or sexuality. We ask for this information to aid our efforts to build an identity-conscious and equitable organization; your information will not be shared beyond the Graduate Committee without your express permission.
 - ii. **Statement:** In no more than 500 words, please describe how and why you are qualified for this position, including how you will leverage your previous experience, strengths, and identity to amplify underrepresented voices in WPA-GO. Your statement should detail your ideas for your tenure as Master's Student Representative and how those ideas address CWPA's pledge to "foster inclusion more generally; promote research into student diversities; promote

policies that increase diversity in our membership and in the population of people who administer writing programs; and explicitly act against the structures that cause injustice today.”

- c. Photo/ headshot (submit as attachment).

You will receive email confirmation from the WPA-GO Chair that your materials have been received.

Next Steps:

All of your submitted application materials (your name, bio, statement, and photo) will go into a survey ballot with other applicants to be voted on by the current graduate Committee members. You will be notified via email of the status of your application after voting is completed. If you are appointed to the Master’s Student Representative position, you will have one week to accept or decline the appointment.

If you have questions about this position, please email Stacy Wittstock (snwittstock@ucdavis.edu) or Amanda Pratt, (apratt4@wisc.edu).