Resources and Support for Dissertation Writing

Direct Dissertation Support

Global Communication Center (GCC)
The GCC offers one-on-one tutoring to help you with any aspect of writing your dissertation, journal articles, conference papers, or job application materials. We also provide advice on the design of PowerPoint slides and research posters, and we can work with you on oral presentations. You can make appointments directly on our website: http://www.cmu.edu/gcc/

If you have a project that requires visual design expertise, you can make an appointment directly with Kerry Ishizaki, our visual communication consultant: kerryl@cmu.edu

We also periodically offer workshops on various communication topics. If you create an account on our appointment server, you will be added to our email distribution list.

GSA Dissertation Writing Group Grants
The GSA offers $100 grants to "dissertation writing groups" to help cover the cost of food, coffee, or printing for six months of group meetings. To learn more about starting a dissertation writing group, visit: http://www.cmu.edu/stugov/gsa/resources/dissertationgroups/.

Graduate Small Project Help (Research Funding)
GuSH grants of $750 are available to help graduate students forward their research. Eligible items for funding include lab equipment, human subject fees, software, research related travel, and more. For more details, visit: http://www.cmu.edu/graduate/professional-development/research-funding/index.html.

Managing your Work

Citation Management Software
Use software such as Zotero, Mendeley or Endnote to easily convert your bibliographic references back and forth between citation styles. Contact Ethan Pullman more for information: ethanp@cmu.edu. You can also contact your department’s liaison librarian for research assistance: http://search.library.cmu.edu/services/liaison/

Data Management Services
Data Management Services helps you develop a Data Management Plan that complies with federal regulations for making your data publically accessible. http://www.cmu.edu/research/data-management/index.html

Publicizing Your Research

Printing a Conference/Scientific Poster
Many departments offer resources for printing student posters (i.e., SCS students receive free printing); check with your department administrator for details. You can also print posters on campus at FedEx/Kinkos or Campus Printing and Mailing Services. You can apply for GuSH funds (see above) for poster printing.
Three Minute Thesis Championship
The 3MT competition challenges participants to give a compelling oration of their thesis – in just three minutes. This competition provides a venue for graduate students to showcase their research and practice explaining the “big picture” significance of their work to a non-specialist audience. Winners also receive travel grants of up to $3,000. For more information, visit http://search.library.cmu.edu/3mt/.

Public Communication for Researchers
PCR is a professional development program that teaches graduate students how to effectively communicate scientific knowledge to a non-specialist audience, including policy makers, the media, the general public and potential employers. Visit: http://www.cmu.edu/student-org/pcr/index.html.

Books on Communication
Academic Writing for Graduate students by Christine Feak and John Swales. University of Michigan Press. (Our libraries have multiple copies; you can own your personal copy for about $25)

Slide Rules: Design, Build, and Archive Presentations in the Engineering and Technical Fields by Traci Nathans-Kelly and Christine Nicometo (You can access this electronically from our library)

Other Resources
The Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and Education Innovation
The Eberly Center offers various resources to support graduate students with their teaching responsibilities, including guidance on writing a statement of teaching philosophy for the academic job market. For more information or to set up a one-on-one consultation, visit: http://www.eberly.cmu.edu/services/graduate-students.

Intercultural Communication Center
The ICC provides language and cultural support to help nonnative English speakers achieve academic fluency, especially oral communication skills. The ICC can help you interact with advisors, research funders, and colleagues and participate in “small talk” about your field. To sign up for a seminar, visit: http://www.cmu.edu/icc/languagetraining/workshops.shtml#classes.