How do you handle the end of semester crunch?

“Change in #wcchat topic: how to best end a sem in the WC. Thx @laglowzenski for the more appropriate topic! Grad wrtg groups for the summer.

2 days ago

Lamar Writing Center

“Chat time! Who’s here? #wcchat

2 days ago

Lee Ann

“@laglowzenski We are--we can talk about end of semester craziness! :) (we don't have grad students) #wcchat

2 days ago

StudentWritingCenter

“#wcchat Rollins College is here!

2 days ago

RollinsSource

“@RollinsSource @SLCCSWC So, what are some tips and strategies for getting through the late-semester crunch? #wcchat

2 days ago

Lee Ann

“@laglowzenski drink lots of water. #wcchat

2 days ago

Clint Gardner

“We have an "All-Nighter" on the last Sunday of term: all writing consultants (28) offer hours; we provide food, drinks, caffeine. #wcchat

2 days ago

RollinsSource
@RollinsSource Wow! How often have you guys done this? Is it popular? (And does it dent the budget, or is it volunteer?) #wcchat
2 days ago
Lee Ann

@clintongardner don't know, that might make it hard to sit through a session. :) #wcchat
2 days ago
Lee Ann

@laglowzenski #wcchat we try to make sure we have enough tutors on, but there are never enough, of course.
2 days ago
StudentWritingCenter

@laglowzenski well that can be a good reason to break sessions off that may be going on too long! :) #wcchat
2 days ago
Clint Gardner

@clintongardner we'll add this to the "strategies for difficult sessions" list. #wcchat
2 days ago
Lee Ann

Twila Papay started it in 88 or 90? Very popular; our banner was stolen a few yrs ago, maybe for another meaning of All-Nighter ;) #wcchat
2 days ago
RollinsSource

@SLCCSWC wonder what this tells us about utilization during the year. E.g. how can we get "finals numbers" all year long? #wcchat
2 days ago
Lee Ann

More no-shows than normal; some just wait for a no-show to slip into a session. Tutors only work 4-6 hour shifts. #wcchat
2 days ago
RollinsSource
How about stress levels? How do we help tutors deal w/ stressed tutees, their own work stress? #wcchat

@laglowzenski well sometimes "finals utilization" is too much. #wcchat

Does anyone open satellite centers during the last week(s)? We have a few consultants in the library from 8-11. Very popular #wcchat

@SLCCSWC can we(you) make it work for the good, though? (E.g. arguments for budget, more hours, etc.) #wcchat

@alanbenson We have a library satellite during the year. The few students who go love it, but numbers are pretty low. #wcchat

@alanbenson How do you advertise the satellite? #wcchat

@laglowzenski Signs in the library and WC, Web site, plus it's pretty visible (the tables are right by one of the entrances) #wcchat

@laglowzenski We start a drop-in at the library 2x/wk in the last month (all others are by appt) Not much demand yet. #wcchat
@RollinsSource We had similar lack of demand w/ our drop in, but the location wasn't great. #wcchat
2 days ago

@laglowzenski Was it open during your normal hours? I think part of the popularity in the library is that it's open later #wcchat
2 days ago

So, extending hours and adding more tutors help meet finals demand. Anything else? What about group tutoring? #wcchat
2 days ago

We're open until 10 Sun-Thurs. Library, until 12 and then 24 hrs in the last stretch. I want to move there! Next yr maybe!! #wcchat
2 days ago

Can we use finals week to experiment with new strategies? #wcchat
2 days ago

@RollinsSource Whoa! That is so awesome! You mean move to a library commons type of set up? #wcchat
2 days ago

@laglowzenski I think experimentation would be helpful, but we are often just trying to keep up w/ the demand. #wcchat
2 days ago

Great to hear how high demand is for everyone during finals. Still wonder how to get that same interest throughout the year... #wcchat
2 days ago
@laglowzenski yes... we're talking about that Library Commons model now. No final decision, but I've wanted it for years. #wcchat

Tutors come only when they have appts. so my hiring many doesn't affect our budget much, & we have more for the end of term. #wcchat

@RollinsSource Would love to hear more about this (chat topic, maybe?) We pay tutors for their time, whether they have appts. or not #wcchat

We're primarily drop-in, so consultants are paid for their time as well. #wcchat

I would love to have tutors pd for all time, but we've done appts-pd only for 12 years. I can pay people to do mtgs and projects. #wcchat

Does anyone limit the number of extra hours tutors can work during finals? #wcchat

I also have content tutors, some w/ very little demand. This way I can hire 80 students but they don't have to be here w/o appts. #wcchat

I encourage extra hours, but not many can, of course. #wcchat
@alanbenson re: experimentation/demand. True for us, too. End of semester it’s hard to think straight much less inventively #wcchat

@RollinsSource I have to say, that's pretty brilliant. Does hiring/training drive you crazy, though? #wcchat

Does experimenting at peak times allow for self-reflexive thinking (in tutors or for dir) enough to see whether experiment worked? #wcchat

We practice assertiveness, how to say yes and no to Ss demands: I can help you during my scheduled hours but not now, for example. #wcchat

@gwwritingcenter Maybe I was thinking more of "light experimentation": tutoring outside, working in groups, trying new tech. #wcchat

We move from 1 hr. to 30 min. appts. Wish we could do groups. #wcchat

@gwwritingcenter good point. One advantage is a large sample group of students, though. (But if it goes awry? Oh, dear.) #wcchat
Thanks for chatting, everyone! Good luck with the finals crunch! #wcchat

New tech attempts, group work studio models are in the works for summertime (slower time). #wcchat

Bye everyone! Keep hydrated ;) #wcchat