What is Dissertation Boot Camp?
Dissertation Boot Camp helps students make significant progress on their dissertations. By supporting intense, focused writing time, the camp provides participants with the structure and motivation to overcome typical roadblocks in the dissertation process.

Is This For You?
This program is designed to support students in the final stages of writing their dissertation. An individual working on a dissertation proposal, Master’s thesis, or other projects could also benefit from the structured time, space, professional advising, and motivational support of the program. It is limited to 16 Stanford graduate students per session.

What to Expect
On the first day of Boot Camp, Hume Center staff lead a workshop on writing strategies as well as formulating, scheduling, and monitoring writing goals. For the next nine and a half days participants spend four hours each day writing and working on their dissertation. During the “One Week” camp, participants spend up to seven hours writing and working on their dissertation over five days.

Each participant is strongly encouraged to schedule an individual 1-hour consultation with a Hume Center writing consultant. Writing consultations may be selected within the Boot Camp daily schedule or outside the daily schedule depending on participants’ and the consultant’s availability and the Boot Camp model. These meetings will help students identify and overcome any writing or productivity habits or problems standing in the way of their success.

Consultation topics might include:
- Brainstorming/breaking through writing blocks
- Outlining/planning
- Developing an effective literature review
- Writing the conclusion or introduction
- Revision strategies
- Organizational strategies

A Graduate Student Monitor will be on hand to:
- Stock a break room with beverages and snacks
- Provide friendly reminders to help you to stay on task
- Sign in participants each day
- Serve as liaison with Hume Center staff
- Lead stimulating stretch breaks
- Lead short writing activities

Participants will be allowed to take scheduled short breaks throughout the day to clear their minds or to snack.
Registration and Fees

Each Boot Camp is limited to **16 participants** (including the Monitor).

Registration is on a **first-come, first-served basis, with priority going to first time Campers**.

Each session has a separate one-week registration period, usually starting two Mondays preceding the Boot Camp. Please refer to the registration dates on our website.

Registration must be completed in person at the Hume Center for Writing and Speaking, Bldg. 250.

All participants are asked to make a serious commitment to the program, and to attend all sessions for which they sign up. While the Boot Camp is free, we encourage sustained commitment from Boot Camp participants by collecting a Fee Agreement. Consequently, students complete their registration by filling out a Student Participation Fee Agreement. This agreement authorizes the Hume Center to charge $100 to participants' Stanford University bill if they do not fully attend the Camp.

**If you know you have a conflict (e.g., medical appointment or meeting with your advisor) during the Boot Camp hours, we ask that you register for the program at another time.**

Other Policies

The Hume Center will provide free printing on a laser printer. Students should bring their own computers and flash drives for printing. You may also bring the books, notes and materials you need. For some Boot Camps, you may be able to store these overnight at the Center. Confirm with Hume Center staff during Boot Camp before leaving your things.

We provide quiet writing space, snacks, and drinks, and try to accommodate special diets; we also encourage participants to bring their own preferred food and drink to optimize their productivity.

About Us

The Hume Center for Writing and Speaking offers individual meetings with trained writing, speaking, and multimedia consultants; dedicated graduate workshops on a variety of important topics related to writing and speaking; and many other special writing and speaking events.

Questions?

We are happy to explain our policies and discuss the program with you. Please contact the Hume Center Administrative Coordinator, Katie Fritz, by emailing humecenter@stanford.edu, or you may reach out to the Hume Center Associate Director, Dr. Norah Fahim at nfahim@stanford.edu.

You may also call the Hume Center front desk at (650) 723-0045.