

# Writing services

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"My first response is whoever avails himself to this service almost certainly is wasting his money. The Learning Assistance Center has qualified tutors and most instructors who are more than willing to help people with writing assignments," he added.

Baldwin noted that asking someone to proofread and help you with your paper is definitely not dishonest. However, he said there is a point where you can get too much help.

"If I wrote the rough draft and the roommate wrote the final draft I'd say that's dishonest. The worst thing you could do in a bank is steal money, because banks deal in money. Universities deal in knowledge. You can not have a university unless you have intellectual honesty," said Baldwin.

Administrators noted if a non-student business provides editing, syntax and structural services on a student's paper, the student would be held accountable.

"Anyone who provides a service through which the work of one person is submitted by another as his or her own is in violation of the University's policy on academic integrity," said Chris Reber, dean of student services.

Some non-student typing services in Erie are willing to edit and revise a student's paper if the student asks for that service. Sue Knight, owner of Professional Secretarial Services, said "We would either proof it and not take anything out or, if they choose, we would edit and revise their paper for them."

Other services are not willing to go as far as Professional Secretarial Services. Lin Larrs, owner of Word Systems Services, Inc., says they only fix spelling, punctuation and sentence structure. "Everything else is the student's responsibility, not ours," she said.

*Happy 21st B-day Nick!*

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# Graduate school

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while contemplating graduate school: Do you have the motivation to explore the detail of a specialty area? Do you know what positions are available in your field of interest with an advanced degree? Are you familiar with anyone who has a degree and holds a position in your field of interest? Do you feel that you can successfully complete a graduate program?

The next step in choosing a school is investigating the various graduate programs available.

"Find out who and where to write to and start comparing the various degree programs because they can be very very different," said Peterson. "Get advice from faculty members in your field, because they've been through graduate school and know how they work." Contacting alumni who may be successful could help you discover which schools and programs might be worth investigating.

Your undergraduate transcript is an important part of your application. You should know what your academic abilities and limitations are based on past experience. Look into graduate school requirements to find out what the minimum requirements are for acceptance into the program. And while you're checking out graduate school programs, don't forget to get your graduate record examination (GRE) material together.

"It's important to make sure to get registered in time for the GRE so you can have your test scores back in time to apply to the schools you've chosen," said Peterson.

The reputation of a graduate department is largely determined by the reputation of its faculty. Looking for a graduate school with well-known professors may be a plus for you if a degree is earned from that institution. You should check out the different areas of a graduate school program, including quality of the faculty, the resources available and the program curriculum.

While you're checking out the faculty and program, take a look at the school's students. Finding out their G.P.A., test scores, academic abilities, achievements, skills, geographic representation and the level of professional success upon completion of the program may help you evaluate what your abilities in the program will be.

A crucial question is financial aid. Traditional aid, such as PHEA grant and loans, are not available. Every school has its own financial aid system. You will need to contact schools to find out what financial aid you qualify for.

Finally, make sure to get cover letters and references from faculty and professionals you've worked with in the field. Also get grade transcripts and any other academic records that a graduate school may require for admission consideration.



## World

**Damascus, Syria --** A Mideast peace conference later this month seemed likely Tuesday as Secretary of State James Baker held talks with Syrian president Hafez Assad. The conference, slated for Lausanne, Switzerland on Oct. 29, is expected to take place, barring unforeseen snags concerning the question of Palestinian participation in the talks.

## Nation

**Washington --** Clarence Thomas won confirmation from the Senate Tuesday night with a 52-48 vote, making him the second black justice in history. Tuesday's vote ended a week of controversy surrounding Thomas and allegations that he sexually harassed Anita Hill and other female employees at the Education Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The week-long hearing process was called one of the angriest, emotionally-charged confirmation battles ever. Thomas, the 106th justice, is a staunchly conservative successor to Thurgood Marshall, one of the Supreme Court's last liberals.

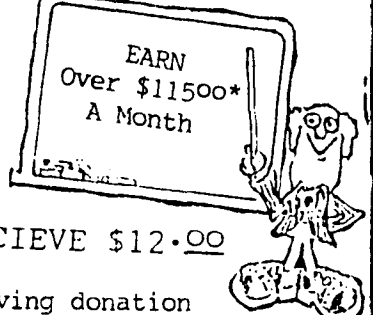
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana --** Television evangelist Jimmy Swaggart is temporarily stepping down from the pulpit after being charged with allegedly picking up a prostitute in California last week. Swaggart's son Donnie said he has been appointed to temporarily head the Swaggart Family Worship Center until his father had completed "a time of healing" with professional counseling and medical care.

**New York --** The College Board reported Tuesday that tuition at public colleges and universities has climbed by 12 percent, the highest rate in eight years. The increase trend, caused by state budget cuts and an economic recession, is predicted to continue as public attitude toward public higher education shifts. "Lawmakers and voters increasingly view colleges as a private, rather than public good," said Arthur Hauptman, a Washington D.C.-based higher education economist. "With that view, state legislators are more likely to shift the cost of public colleges to students and away from taxpayers, who would rather see money spent on new prisons and elementary schools."

**OMAHA, Nebraska --** A 12-year-old boy swallowed seven pieces of crack cocaine to avoid arrest by local police on Monday night. Police officers rushed the boy to a local hospital where he was forced to vomit the drugs. A 15-year-old boy had also attempted to consume plastic bags containing crack, but police caught him in time.

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