



Learning Technology Hub Pilot Proposal: Studiosity

Executive Summary

Technology description

Studiosity

Studiosity is a study tool that students can use to improve their writing. Driven by AI, the tool's immediate, automated feedback is intended to help students address aspects like structure, language, and references in their work.

Studiosity does not generate any writing for students; rather, students upload files of completed work for the AI to review. Students then receive a summary of strengths and weaknesses, with contextual suggestions for improvement that they can choose to address. Students may also upload their revised work for further feedback.




Institutions can view students' interactions with the technology over time. This oversight may identify students who are struggling to use Studiosity or its feedback effectively. However, helping such students requires designating people to monitor Studiosity and its use; instructors cannot currently access this view for their courses.





LT Hub's recommendation




Studiosity could be piloted at UBC starting in 2024/25 W2

An investigation of Studiosity in November 2024 confirms that the tool is viable for piloting at UBC; however, broader adoption could be challenging because of projected cost.

Summarized findings

-  = no concerns
-  = potential concerns
-  = definite concerns

Area	What was the outcome of our investigation?	Summary
Duplication at UBC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both UBC campuses already provide free, comprehensive, person-to-person writing consultations during set hours. • UBC students also have free access to technologies whose features overlap with some of Studiosity’s automated writing help. • However, Studiosity may improve access to help by offering 24/7 availability and addressing multiple aspects of writing in one tool.
Market Position		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several technological alternatives to Studiosity are available, but none have as strong an emphasis on academic integrity.
Technical Feasibility		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studiosity should work in common web browsers including Chrome, Edge, and Firefox. • Studiosity’s integration with Canvas works in a new way and requires more investigation to ensure we can still appropriately understand and control vendor access. • We cannot recommend enabling the Canvas integration during the pilot. Instead, students can be given Studiosity access via email addresses.
Privacy & Security		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A UBC Privacy Impact Assessment has been submitted and no red flags have been raised. • Studiosity requires some student data (first name, last name, email) to be passed and stored outside of Canada. • To mitigate risk, we can suggest a privacy statement be distributed to students in pilot courses letting them know about this data storage.

<p>Budget & Use</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although a pilot is free, the cost of adopting Studioity at scale may be prohibitively high. • Covering the whole university would put the cost higher than nearly any tool except for Canvas. • Alternative funding approaches would likely need to be considered.
<p>Pilot Potential</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would want to pilot Studioity to understand its usefulness before making any commitments. • The cost of piloting Studioity is relatively low.
<p>Capacity & Timeline</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LT Hub has projected capacity to support a Studioity pilot in 2024/25 W2.

Detailed Rationale

Where did the technology request originate?

Interest in Studiosity comes from the sciences

The tool is a request coming from the Faculty of Science and Faculty of Applied Science. The requestor notes that many universities have adopted Studiosity at scale, especially in Australia and the UK:

Institutions such as Western Sydney University, the University of Queensland, and Lancaster University have integrated the platform [...] recognizing its ability to extend support beyond traditional work hours. Western Sydney University reported that the platform significantly helped alleviate student anxiety and improved writing confidence. Similarly, the University of Queensland noted that Studiosity contributed to a more equitable learning environment, making it easier for non-traditional and international students to access timely writing help at a low barrier. Feedback from students and academic staff highlights its positive impact on retention and academic performance.

How and where could the technology be used to improve teaching / learning?

Students from any discipline could better access help for writing

Studiosity would offer students automated self-help for writing in these areas:

- structure
- choice of language
- spelling / grammar / punctuation
- use of sources

Because Studiosity is driven by AI, the tool could remove barriers that students might otherwise face in accessing personalized tutoring for writing:

- **24/7 availability** – Students could use the service from anywhere at any time, with a reported turnaround time of minutes.
- **No cost to students** – Students could receive help for free over multiple projects and revisions.

- **Private feedback** – Students would not need to worry about feeling judged by a reviewer for the quality of their work.

This writing help is not discipline-specific, so could potentially be used in any faculty.

What other technologies or services might already serve this purpose at UBC?

Students can book free writing help on both campuses during set hours

[UBC Vancouver offers person-to-person writing consultations](#) through the Centre for Writing and Scholarly Communication, and [UBC Okanagan provides person-to-person writing appointments](#) through the Student Learning Hub. Both services are free, although both have limits based on the set hours of the space and the number of available consultants.

Students can check spelling / grammar / punctuation in several tools

Students can check their spelling, grammar, and punctuation through Microsoft products such as Word. UBC provides free access to Microsoft products via a Microsoft 365 download and through Microsoft Teams/OneDrive.

Though not affiliated with UBC, other free online tools like [Grammarly](#) can be accessed by students for similar automated writing help.

Students may be able to check use of sources in Turnitin

Turnitin is a plagiarism-prevention tool in the UBC Learning Technology Ecosystem (LTE) that helps instructors check the academic integrity of student writing. In Turnitin, students can also check their own work for correctness of citations, provided their instructor is using the tool in the course and enables this feature.

Other AI technologies available through UBC can directly improve writing

Through UBC, students can securely access the generative AI tools ChatGPT or Copilot to prompt for improvements to—or generation of—writing. However, these tools are likely to be used to make direct improvements to a piece of writing rather than to receive suggestions of where improvements could be made.

Because these tools may reduce student effort and critical thinking, not all courses allow students to use them. Additionally, not all students may be comfortable using them, as such use may feel like cheating.

How does the technology compare to the current market?

Alternatives exist, but none with as strong an emphasis on academic integrity

There are quite a few tools available that aim to help students improve their writing skills. These tools and related services vary in their purpose and approach—some focus on fostering authentic learning, while others seem designed to enable and obscure academic misconduct.

Studiosity positions itself as a safer alternative, offering AI-powered writing suggestions that help students make their own improvements without the risk of compromising academic integrity by allowing AI to do the work for them.

Other AI Writing and Feedback Systems

- FeedbackFruits Automated Feedback
 - <https://feedbackfruits.com/automated-feedback>
- Turnitin Draft Coach
 - <https://www.turnitin.com/products/features/draft-coach/>
- Grammarly EDU
 - <https://www.grammarly.com/edu>
- Writefull
 - <https://www.writefull.com/>
- Hemingway Editor
 - <https://hemingwayapp.com/>
- HyperWrite AI Writing Reviewer
 - <https://www.hyperwriteai.com/aitools/ai-writing-reviewer>
- Winston AI Writing Feedback
 - <https://gowinston.ai/writing-feedback/>
- MyEss.ai
 - <https://myess.ai/>
- QuillBot
 - <https://quillbot.com/>

Other Hybrid Writing Models (AI and tutor)

- TutorOcean AI
 - <https://www.tutorocean.com/ai>
- Pear Deck Tutor
 - <https://www.peardeck.com/products/pear-deck-tutor>
- Tutello
 - <https://www.tutello.com/>

How well does the technology seem to meet UBC technical, security, and privacy requirements?

Studiosity offers standard web access but uses a new type of Canvas integration

Studiosity is a web-based technology and should be compatible with common browsers including Chrome, Edge, and Firefox. Student access can be set up with student email addresses¹ or through a Learning Management System (LMS) such as Canvas.

Access to Studiosity via an LMS uses a newer method of LTI 1.3 integration that detracts from the transparency of the settings used and data shared and potentially gives the vendor more control over the settings and data than we would like or have historically allowed. Investigation into the privacy and security of this method of Canvas integration will need to continue before it can be used with any integrations, Studiosity included. We also need deeper confirmation in writing from both Instructure and Studiosity about how the integration works.

For the time being, we cannot recommend enabling the Canvas integration for a pilot. Instead, students can be given Studiosity access via email addresses.

Studiosity is undergoing the UBC PIA process with no red flags

A UBC Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) has been submitted for Studiosity and is in progress. So far, no red flags have been raised. That said, the tool requires a student's first name, last name, and email address when they initially access Studiosity from Canvas (or create a Studiosity account), and this data is stored outside of Canada.

¹ Students can either create an account with any email address and a password or create an account with a UBC email address to use SSO.

To mitigate risk, students should be informed that their data will be shared and stored outside of Canada; however, this data storage should not prevent a pilot moving forward.

What is the estimated cost of supporting the technology?

Piloting Studiosity at UBC would have relatively low cost

Pilot costs

- **Infrastructure: Free**
 - As a cloud-based service, nothing is required on our end.
- **License: Free**
 - There is no cost to pilot for the first four months.
- **Support: Low**
 - We anticipate a pilot would minimally impact the LT Hub teams. Most of the support would relate to doing work regularly required of the staff involved with tracking and evaluating any pilot. Requests from students for follow-up writing help would be redirected to the piloting instructors.
- **Total** = \$0 CAD + at least 100 hours staff time

Adopting Studiosity into the UBC LTE could have relatively high cost

Adoption costs

- **Infrastructure: Free**
 - As a cloud-based service, nothing is required on our end.
- **License: Medium to High**
 - Exact cost per year is determined by the number of students who will be allowed to use the technology.
 - Covering up to 5,000 students, for example, would put the cost on par with tools like iClicker Cloud and Piazza.
 - Covering the whole university, on the other hand, would put the cost higher than nearly any tool in the UBC LTE except for Canvas.
- **Support: Low**
 - We anticipate adoption would minimally impact the LT Hub teams, in part because we assume that writing-centric student questions fall outside our mandate and would be redirected to instructors or other UBC support services (such as the Centre for Writing and Scholarly Communication).
- **Total** = See Appendix A for specifics

What other challenges might we encounter in supporting the technology?

Limiting users would require prioritizing and restricting which courses/students are given access

Adopting Studiosity for the whole university would come at significant cost. Given current budget constraints, it may be more realistic to consider any future adoption with a lower number of users and/or using a cost-recovery model.

However, this limitation introduces the need to prioritize and restrict who would have access to the tool. We would need to understand who can best make these decisions and what standards would be used to ensure any paid access is distributed fairly. We would also need to control access (via Canvas or using student email addresses), which adds administrative overhead for the LT Hub.

Other units would be impacted by the introduction of this self-help

Because Studiosity’s writing help overlaps with existing UBC services, we would need to consult with these service owners to ensure good collaboration and buy-in.

To realistically scale up student use of the tool, we may also want to arrange for sending writing-focused student support requests to people better suited to responding than the LT Hub. As part of its reviewing process, Studiosity has a built-in message that can be customized for directing students to institution-specific, human-based support.

Recommended Timeline

Pilot during 2024/25 W2

We suggest running a pilot of Studiosity starting in January or February 2025.

Date	Task
Jan 2025	Approval to pilot Studiosity from Learning Technology Hub Leadership
Jan 2025	Plan evaluation
Jan 2025	Begin pilot of Studiosity
Feb-Apr 2025	Evaluate pilot
Apr 2025	Deliver pilot report
May 2025	Decide on broader adoption

Appendices

Appendix A: Estimated technology costs

All dollar amounts are in CAD.

User Cap	Infrastructure	License	Total Annual Cost
5,000	(costing specifics not available for public report)		
70,000			