

How To Hire a Freelance Copyeditor

Contact: cae@drew.edu

*Adapted from "How To Hire a Freelance Copyeditor" via
University Writing Center, UT Austin*

PLEASE NOTE: The CWE is not responsible for changes in contact information. We neither endorse nor recommend any editor. Contact the editors to establish protocol and pay rates.

Where to Start:

- **Ask your faculty supervisors** whether you have their permission to hire a copy-editor. Drew has no official policies against hiring editors, but individual faculty members may object to this practice. Please be sure to check with your advisor/supervisor first before using a copyeditor. **The best practice is to make sure your supervisor is OK with you hiring a copy-editor.**
- Read Wendy Laura Belcher's overview, "How to Hire and Work with an Academic Copyeditor": wendybelcher.com/writing-advice/how-to-hire-copyeditor/
- Send a query email early in the process, even before your project is ready to review. Ask the editor about rates, time frames, and options for reviewing your chapters one at a time.

Standard Editorial Rates: Source: Editorial Freelancers Association. the-efa.org/res/rates.php

"Rates vary considerably depending on the nature of the work, the time frame of the assignment, the degree of special expertise required, and other factors. The industry standard for a manuscript page... is 250 words."

Type of Work	Estimated Pace	Range of Fees
EDITING		
Editing, basic copyediting	5-10 ms pgs/hr	\$30-40/hr
Editing, heavy copyediting	2-5 ms pgs/hr	\$40-50/hr
Editing, developmental	1-5 pgs/hr	\$45-55/hr
Editing, substantive or line	1-6 ms pgs/hr	\$40-60/hr
PROOFREADING	9-13 ms pgs/hr	\$30-35/hr
TRANSCRIBING	variable	\$2.50-\$4/ audio minute
TRANSLATING	300-500 wds/hr	\$40-50/hr

NOTE ind = indexable page, ms = manuscript, pr = printed, pg = page, hr = hour, wd = word

Wendy Belcher's Suggestions:

- "The average rate at which copyeditors edit is 4 pages (or 1,000 words) per hour."
- "First, review the manuscript... If your footnotes have never been spell-checked, spell-check them. If your references are not standardized, fix them.... Once you have fixed what you can, identify exactly how many pages are in your manuscript (don't guess, divide the total electronic word count by 250 words). Divide this figure by 4 (pages an hour) to arrive at the likely total cost of copyediting."
- 200-page dissertation = 50 hours x \$30 = \$1500.

Here is a list of editorial resources, editors, and formatters for hire that are both inside and outside of the New York/New Jersey area. Please inquire about rates.

Name	Focus	Website	Contact
Editorial Freelancers Association	N/A	www.the-efa.org	office@the-efa.org
Margy Thomas, Ph.D.	editing, manuscript development	http://scholarshape.com/writing-consultation-and-editing-services/	http://scholarshape.com/contact/
Fern J. Hill	editing, proofreading, formatting, line editing, structural and developmental editing	http://www.fernhill.com	info@fernhill.com
Maura Grace Harrington Logue, Ph.D., (Drew Alum, Ph.D. '10, M.Phil. '09)	editing, proofreading, formatting, line editing, structural and developmental editing	www.thegracefulgrammarians.com	thegracefulgrammarians@gmail.com
Cascadia Editors	editing, proofreading, formatting, line editing, structural and developmental editing	www.cascadiaeditors.com	inquire@cascadiaeditors.com
Rym Bettaieb, Ph.D. (Drew Graduate)	editing, proofreading, line editing, structural and developmental editing	Please reach out to CAE@DREW.EDU	Please reach out to CAE@DREW.EDU
Yellow Bird Editors	editing, proofreading, formatting, line editing, structural and developmental editing	www.yellowbirdeditors.com/academic-papers	info@yellowbirdeditors.com