Duluth Campus

Writing Studies B.A.

English Linguistics and Writing Studies

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2016
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 41
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

The major in writing studies, which offers emphases in journalism or professional writing, explores writing as a field of inquiry: its production, its circulation, its uses, and its role in the development of individuals, professional communities, and societies. The major begins with the history of writing practices, genres, systems of production and distribution, and related institutions. A major in writing studies draws from the resources of linguistics to understand the relationships between writing, cognition, and communication. It uses the tools of qualitative, quantitative, and humanistic research to advance those explorations. It culminates in a practical examination of writing in traditional and emerging technologies. In core and elective courses, students develop skills in the analysis of rhetorical situations, the selection of media, and the production of texts appropriate for a variety of discourse communities. They also think reflectively and critically about their role as writers for professional and civic life. Students select a journalism or professional writing sub-plan to complete their study.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

Required prerequisites

Introductory Requirement (1 cr)

Transfer students with 24 or more credits and current UMD students who change colleges to CLA are exempt from this requirement.
New first-year students with 24 or more PSEO credits may request to be waived from this requirement.
UST 1000 - Learning in Community (1.0 - 2.0 cr)

General Requirements

The Board of Regents, on recommendation of the faculty, grants degrees from the University of Minnesota. Requirements for an undergraduate degree from University of Minnesota Duluth include the following:

1. Students must meet all course and credit requirements of the departments and colleges or schools in which they are enrolled including an advanced writing course. Students seeking two degrees must fulfill the requirements of both degrees. However, two degrees cannot be awarded for the same major.
2. Students must complete all requirements of the Liberal Education Program.
3. Students must complete a minimum of 120 semester credits.
4. At least 30 of the last 60 degree credits earned immediately before graduation must be awarded by UMD.
5. Students must complete at least half of their courses at the 3xxx-level and higher at UMD. Study-abroad credits earned through courses taught by UM faculty and at institutions with which UMD has international exchange programs may be used to fulfill this requirement.
6. If a minor is required, students must take at least three upper division credits in their minor field from UMD.
7. The minimum cumulative UM GPA required for graduation will be 2.00 and will include only University of Minnesota coursework. A minimum UM GPA of 2.00 is required in each UMD undergraduate major and minor. No academic unit may impose higher grade point standards to graduate.
8. Diploma, transcripts, and certification will be withheld until all financial obligations to the University have been met.

Program Requirements

1. Students majoring in Writing Studies in either emphasis (Professional Writing or Journalism) must complete a minor or second major in a field other than Journalism, Professional Writing, or Information Design.

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2. The journalism or professional writing emphasis must be declared through the CLA Advising and Academic Services office.

Required Core (15 cr)
Take 5 or more courses totaling at least 15 credits.
Take 15 or more credit(s) from the following:
- JOUR 2400 - Community and Journalism [GLOBAL PER] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 2501 - History of American Media (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3700 - Media Law and Ethics (3.0 cr)
- WRIT 1506 - Literacy, Technology and Society [LE CAT, HUMANITIES] (3.0 cr)
- WRIT 2506 - Theories of Writing Studies (3.0 cr)
- WRIT 4250 - New Media Writing (3.0 cr)

Required Capstone (1 cr)
WRIT 4506 - Capstone Course: Senior Portfolio Preparation (1.0 cr)

Program Sub-plans
Students are required to complete one of the following sub-plans.

Journalism
The journalism curriculum engages the study and practice of mass communication in a converged, multimedia environment. It prepares students for careers as reporters, editors, producers, and photographers in print, broadcast, and multimedia news. The program is built on a liberal arts foundation, including the history, traditions, routines, and practices of journalism. Students learn the skills they need to succeed in the profession, study its legal and ethical dimensions, and examine the sociology of news and the context in which journalism is practiced.

Students are encouraged to participate in UMD-sponsored internships at news, publishing, and broadcast organizations, both locally and across the country. Additionally, students have the opportunity to do extracurricular work at the student newspaper and the public radio and television stations on campus.

Required Courses (15 cr)
JOUR 2001 - Introduction to Journalism (3.0 cr)
JOUR 2101 - Journalist's Toolbox (3.0 cr)
JOUR 3001 - Local Journalism (3.0 cr)
JOUR 3401 - Digital Storytelling (4.0 cr)
JOUR 4102 - Newsroom Practicum (3.0 cr)

Journalism Electives (9 cr)
To fulfill this requirement students must take at least three 3 credit courses with the WRIT or JOUR subject/designator (except WRIT 1120). Students must take at least one WRIT and one JOUR course. JOUR 4197-Internship may be repeated for a total of 6 credits. Selected COMM, ENGL, FMIS, LING, TH or relevant course work, as appropriate to the plan of study for the student, may be substituted with departmental approval.

Journalism (3 cr)
Take at least one course from the following.
JOUR 2xxx
or JOUR 3xxx
or JOUR 4xxx

Writing (3 cr)
Take at least one course from the following. (This excludes WRIT 1120.)
WRIT 1xxx
or WRIT 2xxx
or WRIT 3xxx
or WRIT 4xxx

Professional Writing
The professional writing curriculum synthesizes 1) knowledge and experience with writing technologies from a liberal arts, as well as a technical, perspective; 2) practice in applying principles of rhetoric, design, cultural theory, and creative thinking to the production of professional writing projects; and 3) experience in developing successful relationships with writing/design communities and other audiences. Students develop writing skills relevant to professional situations (document design and delivery, the development of varied writing techniques, and persuasive argument) with an understanding of writing's ethical and social implications.

Students are encouraged to participate in UMD-sponsored internships in professional writing, corporate communication, editing, and publishing.

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Required Courses (9 cr)
WRIT 4200 - Writing and Cultures (3.0 cr)
WRIT 4260 - Visual Narrative and Analytical Design (3.0 cr)
WRIT 4300 - Research Methods for the Study of Writing (3.0 cr)
Advanced Writing Requirement (3 cr)
WRIT 31xx - Adv Writing (3 cr)
Professional Writing Electives (12 cr)
To fulfill this requirement students must take at least four 3 credit courses with the WRIT and JOUR designator/subject (except WRIT 1120). Students must take at least one WRIT and one JOUR course. WRIT 4197-Internship may be repeated for a total of 6 credits. Selected COMM, ENGL, FMIS, LING, TH, or other relevant course work, as appropriate to the plan of study for the student, may be substituted with departmental approval.

Writing (3 cr)
Take at least one course from the following. (This excludes WRIT 1120.)
WRIT 1xxx
or WRIT 2xxx
or WRIT 3xxx
or WRIT 4xxx
Journalism (3 cr)
Take at least one course from the following.
JOUR 2xxx
or JOUR 3xxx
or JOUR 4xxx

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