



Twin Cities Campus

Rhetoric, Scientific and Technical Communication M.A.

Writing Studies Department

College of Liberal Arts

Link to a [list of faculty](#) for this program.

Contact Information:

Department of Writing Studies, 215 Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Drive, SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-624-3445; fax: 612-624-3617)

Email: WRIT@umn.edu

Website: <http://cla.umn.edu/writing-studies>

- Program Type: Master's
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2018
- Length of program in credits: 33
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Master of Arts

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the [General Information](#) section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The MA in rhetoric and scientific and technical communication prepares students to address complex issues in language, science, and technology. This program prepares students for doctoral-level research through courses and seminars in research methods, rhetoric, writing studies, pedagogy, and technical communication, technology and culture. Students also pursue additional courses of interest in allied departments to broaden their experience. In addition, you will write a research paper on a limited topic and present it at an oral examination.

Required courses include classical and modern rhetoric, research methods, and courses in writing studies and pedagogy, technical communication, and technology and culture. Students take at least 6 credits outside the department as a masters minor or supporting field. They also write a plan "B" paper in the context of a directed research course.

All MA applicants must meet the admission requirements of the University. MA applicants should have a strong interest in language and rhetorical theory or communication theory. A background in a science, Internet studies, environmental studies, or pedagogy and technology is helpful.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

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

Prerequisites for Admission

Undergraduate degree in a related discipline.

Special Application Requirements:

Scores from the General Test of the GRE that are less than five years old are required of students with baccalaureate degrees from U.S. institutions. International students are encouraged to take the General Test of the GRE. Nonnative speakers of English are required to take an appropriate test with satisfactory scores. All applicants must submit three letters of recommendation, two writing samples, and a professional objective statement. All M.A. and Ph.D. applicants begin in the fall semester and should apply by the January 1 application deadline.

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:

- TOEFL
 - Internet Based - Total Score: 79
 - Internet Based - Writing Score: 21
 - Internet Based - Reading Score: 19
 - Paper Based - Total Score: 550
- IELTS
 - Total Score: 6.5
- MELAB
 - Final score: 80

Key to [test abbreviations](#)(TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB).



For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the [General Information](#) section of the catalog website.

Program Requirements

Plan B: Plan B requires 27 major credits and 6 credits outside the major. The final exam is oral.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses toward program requirements is permitted under certain conditions with adviser approval.

Research Core

[WRIT 8011](#) - Research Methods in Writing Studies and Technical Communication (3.0 cr)

[WRIT 8012](#) - Applied Research Methods in Writing Studies and Technical Communication (3.0 cr)

Rhetoric Core

[WRIT 5775](#) - Rhetorical Traditions: Classical Period (3.0 cr)

[WRIT 5776](#) - The Rhetorical Traditions: Modern Era (3.0 cr)

Writing Studies and Pedagogy

[WRIT 8540](#) - Seminar in Technical Communication and Composition Pedagogies (3.0 cr)

or [WRIT 8560](#) - Seminar in Writing Studies (3.0 cr)

or [WRIT 5531](#) - Introduction to Writing Theory and Pedagogies (3.0 cr)

Technical Communication and Composition Pedagogies

[WRIT 8520](#) - Seminar in Scientific and Technical Communication (3.0 cr)

or [WRIT 8550](#) - Seminar in Technology, Culture, and Communication (3.0 cr)

Plan B Project Credits

Take 3 or more credit(s) from the following:

- [WRIT 8794](#) - Directed Research (1.0 - 4.0 cr)

Specialty Area/Concentration

Students are required to take 6 credits for this area, of which 3 credits must be taken in the Department of Writing Studies. The student's area of concentration will be developed chiefly through seminars in writing studies, and through consultation with the advisor.

Outside Coursework

Take at least 6 credits outside the Department of Writing Studies. Students often pursue a formal minor related to their research interests, chosen in conjunction with their advisor.