

PROFESSIONAL WRITING (MINOR)

The Minor in Professional Writing, offered by the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, & Discourse (WRD), is a 5-course minor available to any undergraduate student in the university. The department understands the term *professional writing* to refer broadly to the kinds of literate activities taken up by individuals whose work is creative, intellectually challenging, and ethically grounded. Core courses in the program are designed to prepare students as effective writers for any context in which writing is a key competency. Because nearly all professional writing today takes place in digital environments, digital writing—the combination of alphabetic text with other modes, such as sound and image—is central to the program core and an element of many electives.

The breadth of choices within the Minor in Professional Writing makes it an excellent complement to any major and a fine choice for students pursuing graduate school in any discipline, including law. The Professional Writing Minor allows a wide range of choices: you may take courses in which your own writing—in various genres and contexts—is the focus, or you may study theories of language, rhetoric (how to make effective choices as writers), and discourse (the way writing structures human activity) to develop an understanding of the role of the individual writer within communities of writers.

The program comprises two required core courses and twelve hours of electives, which may be chosen from among all of the department's undergraduate offerings numbered 203-205 and 207-226 and 230-399.

Course Requirements

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
WRD 201	DIGITAL WRITING	4
WRD 206	PROFESSIONAL WRITING	4
Select 12 additional credit hours from WRD courses 203-205, 207-226, 230-399:		12
WRD 203	STYLE FOR WRITERS	
WRD 202X	PROFESSIONAL WRITING FOR BUSINESS (FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS)	
WRD 204	TECHNICAL WRITING	
WRD 205	HISTORY OF LITERACIES AND WRITING	
WRD 207	INTRODUCTION TO WRITING AND RHETORIC	
WRD 208	INTRODUCTION TO REASONED DISCOURSE	
WRD 209	GENRE AND DISCOURSE	
WRD 210	CULTURAL RHETORICS	
WRD 220	HOW LANGUAGE WORKS	
WRD 231	GOOGLING GOD: RELIGIOUS PRACTICES IN DIGITAL CULTURE	
WRD 232	THE LANGUAGE OF DISABILITY	
WRD 240	ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING	
WRD 241	THE ESSAY FROM PRINT TO NEW MEDIA	
WRD 242	WRITING WITH AI	
WRD 260	RHETORICAL ANALYSIS	
WRD 261	DIGITAL CULTURE	

WRD 262	THE RHETORIC OF EVERYDAY TEXTS
WRD 263	READING BETWEEN THE GROOVES: THE RHETORICAL POWER OF POPULAR MUSIC
WRD 264	LANGUAGE, SELF AND SOCIETY
WRD 265	SOCIAL MOVEMENT, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND AMERICAN IDENTITIES
WRD 266	LEVELING UP: THE SOCIAL RHETORIC OF VIDEO GAMES
WRD 270	ACADEMIC READING FOR INTERNATIONAL/MULTILINGUAL STUDENTS
WRD 280	WRITING IN THE SCIENCES
WRD 281	WRITING CENSORSHIP
WRD 282	ETHICS OF PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING
WRD 283	ENVIRONMENTAL WRITING
WRD 284	SPORTS WRITING IN AMERICA: MYTHS, MEMORIES, HEROES AND VILLAINS
WRD 285	TRUTH IN DISGUISE: THE RHETORIC OF SATIRE
WRD 286	WRITING WITH PHOTOGRAPHS
WRD 287	THE COMIC BOOK AS VISUAL ARGUMENT
WRD 288	RHETORIC AND POPULAR CULTURE
WRD 289	WRITING ABOUT RIGHTS
WRD 290	WRITER'S TOOLS WORKSHOP
WRD 291	THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH POSTER
WRD 300	COMPOSITION AND STYLE
WRD 301	WORKPLACE WRITING: THEORY AND PRACTICE
WRD 306	RHETORICAL TRADITIONS
WRD 309	TOPICS IN WRITING, RHETORIC AND DISCOURSE
WRD 320	TOPICS IN PROFESSIONAL WRITING
WRD 321	WRITING IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION
WRD 322	WRITING AND METADATA
WRD 323	EDITING
WRD 324	WRITING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE
WRD 325	RHETORIC IN CRISIS CONTEXTS
WRD 326	GRANT AND PROPOSAL WRITING
WRD 327	CONTENT WRITING
WRD 330	LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS
WRD 340	WRITING AND REVISING
WRD 345	GHOSTWRITING
WRD 360	TOPICS IN RHETORIC
WRD 361	TOPICS IN ALTERNATIVE RHETORICS
WRD 362	SEMIOTICS
WRD 363	VISUAL RHETORIC
WRD 364	CHICAGO WOMEN RHETORS
WRD 365	MIGRATION & STORYTELLING
WRD 368	GLOBAL ENGLISHES
WRD 371	MENTORING YOUTH IN COMMUNITY WRITING GROUPS
WRD 372	DIGITAL STORYTELLING

WRD 376	FIELDWORK IN ARTS WRITING
WRD 377	WRITING AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT
WRD 378	TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE IN CHICAGO
WRD 390	RHETORIC AND PUBLIC WRITING
WRD 395	WRITING CENTER THEORY & PEDAGOGY
WRD 396	WRITING FELLOWS THEORY AND PRACTICE
WRD 398	INTERNSHIP
WRD 399	INDEPENDENT STUDY

Students majoring in Writing and Rhetoric (BA) are restricted from earning this minor.

Professional Writing Minor Online

The required courses in the Professional Writing minor and many WRD electives are also offered online. Interested students may therefore complete the Professional Writing minor entirely online.