WRITING, RHETORIC AND DISCOURSE (MA)

The Master of Arts in Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse (WRD) combines a strong theoretical foundation in rhetoric and discourse with practical training in the areas of teaching writing and language, professional and technical writing, and digital content creation. The program's mix of theory and practice prepares students to write and to create digital content in professional, technical, or nonprofit settings; to teach writing in post-secondary institutions; and to continue academic study in related PhD programs. Our students go on to work as writers and digital content creators in professional and technical workplaces; to teach writing and English as a second language in colleges and universities in the U.S. and abroad; and to continue their academic study in PhD programs.

The MA in WRD may also be expanded to include select graduate certificate programs covering particular areas of interest. Students participating in a combined MA/certificate program should consult with their academic advisor to determine what coursework might count toward both programs. A separate application process for the certificate is required. Students who are interested in any of the following combination programs should contact the Graduate Student Services Office for additional information.

- WRD + Digital Humanities Certificate
- WRD + Teaching English of Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Certificate
- WRD + Teaching English in Two-Year Colleges Certificate
- WRD + Women’s and Gender Studies Certificate

Program Requirements  
Degree Requirements  48  
Total hours required  48  

Learning Outcomes  
Students will be able to:
- Describe key concepts, theories, and histories in the study of writing and rhetoric.
- Produce complex written arguments that demonstrate a clear, cohesive, and appropriate written style.
- Design persuasive multimodal texts.
- Assess the ethical, civic, or political dimensions of rhetoric, language, or writing technologies, including dynamics of culture and power.

Concentration Specific Outcomes  
Professional & Technical Writing Concentration  
Students will be able to:
- Compose effective texts for specific workplace or professional audiences.

Teaching Writing & Language Concentration  
Students will be able to:
- Apply current theories and principles of writing pedagogy to the production and analysis of pedagogical materials.

Degree Requirements  
Course Requirements  
Students complete 12 courses (48 credits) to graduate from the MA in WRD program. Program requirements vary based on whether or not the student declares a concentration.

Required Course (4 credits)  
Course  Title  Quarter Hours
WRD 500  PROSEMINAR (To be taken within the first 4 courses of the program)  4  

Rhetoric and Discourse Courses (12 credits)  
Course  Title  Quarter Hours
Select three from the following:  12
WRD 503  ANCIENT RHETORICS
WRD 505  CONTEMPORARY RHETORICS
WRD 506  MULTICULTURAL RHETORICS
WRD 507  GLOBAL ENGLISHES
WRD 508  DISCOURSE AND STYLE
WRD 509  GENRE THEORY AND PRACTICE
WRD 510  TOPICS IN RHETORICAL HISTORY
WRD 511  TOPICS IN COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND IDENTITY
WRD 512  TOPICS IN LANGUAGE
WRD 513  SEMIOTICS
WRD 514  SOCIOLINGUISTICS
WRD 515  THE ESSAY

Optional Concentrations (16 credits)  
Professional & Digital Writing  
Course  Title  Quarter Hours
Select four from the following:  16
WRD 521  TECHNICAL WRITING
WRD 522  WRITING IN THE PROFESSIONS
WRD 523  EDITING
WRD 524  DOCUMENT DESIGN
WRD 525  WRITING FOR THE WEB
WRD 526  GRANT AND PROPOSAL WRITING
WRD 530  TOPICS IN PROFESSIONAL AND DIGITAL WRITING
WRD 531  DIGITAL STORYTELLING
WRD 532  CONTENT STRATEGY
WRD 533  WRITING ACROSS MEDIA
WRD 580  MARKUP AND TEXT ENCODING IN THE HUMANITIES
WRD 590  INTERNSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL AND DIGITAL WRITING

Teaching Writing & Language  
Course  Title  Quarter Hours
Select four from the following:  16
WRD 540  TEACHING WRITING
WRD 541  COMPOSITION THEORY
WRD 542  URBAN LITERACIES
WRD 543  TEACHING ESL WRITING
WRD 544  TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND OR FOREIGN LANGUAGE
WRD 545  TEACHING WRITING ONLINE
WRD 546  PEDAGOGICAL GRAMMAR
WRD 547  AP INSTITUTE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
WRD 550  TOPICS IN TEACHING WRITING AND LANGUAGE
WRD 551  TEACHING APPRENTICESHIP PRACTICUM
WRD 582  WRITING APPRENTICESHIP PRACTICUM
WRD 591  INTERNSHIP IN TEACHING WRITING AND LANGUAGE

Electives (8-32 credits)
- Students who declare a concentration take four elective courses (16 credits); students who do not declare a concentration take eight elective courses (32 credits).
- All 500-level WRD courses count for elective credit.
- Students who have completed six MA in WRD courses may take up to two courses outside of the MA in WRD for elective credit; the WRD Graduate Committee must approve any course a student wishes to take outside of the department.

Portfolio Requirement
All students will keep a portfolio of significant work done for courses. This work will be curated and submitted as a portfolio at both the midpoint of the program and at its culminating point.

Mid-Program Portfolio
After completing the sixth course but before taking the ninth course, all students must submit a portfolio to their advisor and meet with this advisor to discuss both the portfolio and their future plans in the program. The Mid-Program Portfolio must be submitted, discussed with a student's advisor, and approved before the student can register for their ninth course in the program.

Professional Portfolio
In the final quarter of coursework, all students must submit a Professional Portfolio and reflective synopsis. The portfolio will be evaluated by the WRD Graduate Committee as "Pass" or "Fail." A Professional Portfolio that does not initially earn a score of "Pass" must be revised until it does so.

Student Handbook

Probation
To maintain good standing, students must complete at least two courses in WRD within twelve months of their admission to the program. Students must also maintain an overall grade-point average of at least 3.0 in their coursework. Students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 will be placed on probation and given two quarters to raise their average to the minimum 3.0 level. Students on probation are required to consult with the program director before registering for classes. Failure to meet these requirements constitutes grounds for dismissal.

Dismissal
A student may be dismissed from the program in any of the following cases:
1. failure to maintain a GPA above 3.0 for three consecutive quarters;
2. failure to meet with the program director before registering for classes while on academic probation; or
3. failure to complete at least two courses in WRD within twelve months of their admission to the program.

Readmission
If a student is dismissed from the program (as outlined in the dismissal policy), he or she may reapply through the formal application process.

Transfer Credit
Students may transfer up to three relevant courses (or twelve credits) of coursework previously taken in another program. The exact number of credits and courses that transfer will be determined by the program director. Transfer grades from other institutions do not calculate into the DePaul grade point average.

Undergraduate Courses
Students may take one four-credit undergraduate-level course for credit toward their graduate degree, students must request approval to take an undergraduate course from the WRD Graduate Committee prior to registering for the course.

Graduation Requirements
In order to graduate from the program, students must complete all program requirements with a total of 48 credit hours (12 courses) and a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Graduation with Distinction
To graduate with distinction, students must have a final GPA of 3.9 or higher.

Time Limit
Students must complete the program within six years of their start date. Students who fail to complete the program within this timeframe must reapply to the program.

Non-WRD Courses
Students may take up to two non-WRD courses at DePaul to count toward their degree. Students must complete six courses in WRD before taking courses outside of the program. In exceptional cases (e.g., students completing certificate programs that require non-WRD courses), students may be granted permission to take courses outside of the program earlier in their degree study. All non-WRD courses must be approved by the WRD Graduate Committee prior to enrollment in the course. Students who have transferred in two or more courses from another institution (see Transfer Credit policy) must take all of their remaining courses in the WRD program.

Non-Degree-Seeking Students
All WRD graduate courses are open to non-degree-seeking students, with the exception of the following:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Quarter Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WRD 500</td>
<td>PROSEMINAR</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>INTERNSHIP IN TEACHING WRITING AND LANGUAGE</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRD 595</td>
<td>INDEPENDENT STUDY</td>
<td>1-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRD 598</td>
<td>THESIS RESEARCH</td>
<td>4</td>
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**Partial Tuition Waivers**

Partial Tuition Waivers (PTW) are awarded quarterly to eligible students. Eligibility is based on GPA and financial need. Students whose tuition is being paid by DePaul or another organization or institution are not eligible for PTW awards. PTW awards can only be used toward the reimbursement of courses offered by the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse.

**Independent Studies**

WRD 595 is offered to allow students to explore specific interests for which a formal WRD course is not offered. In general, WRD 595 courses will count as electives in a student’s degree program; WRD 595 can only fulfill area requirements (Rhetoric & Discourse or a concentration area) when these requirements cannot be filled through a formal course (for example, because such a course is not offered).

A WRD Graduate Faculty member typically serves as the instructor of record for WRD 595; requests otherwise must be approved by the program director.