School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication

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Professors
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Associate Professors

Assistant Professors

Instructors

Mission Statement
The School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication seeks to equip students for academic and professional success, as well as a life of articulate and thoughtful citizenship. The study of writing and rhetoric includes first-year composition and courses that cover a wide range of topics, including literacy studies, rhetorical traditions, writing pedagogy, women’s rhetoric, and computers and composition, to name a few. Students currently wishing to pursue advanced training may elect the minor in writing and rhetoric as a valuable complement to a host of different academic majors and professional fields. Students may begin formally declaring a major during the 2009-2010 academic year.

The school’s faculty serve the campus through its writing centers. One faculty member is the mentor for the First Year Involvement (FYI) Writing Center. Another faculty member coordinates the University Writing Center, and three more serve as writing tutors. Faculty members also serve as consultants to other JMU academic units desiring to enrich their curricula through writing. In addition to the first-year composition course required by General Education’s Cluster One, the School also promotes excellence in writing at the university level by shaping and cultivating the Writing in the Disciplines initiative in the College of Arts and Letters. Every student in Arts and Letters must take an approved, upper-division, writing-intensive course in his or her discipline.

The B.A. and B.S. degree programs in technical and scientific communication offer students instruction in the study of communication in fields traditionally associated with technical or scientific content, such as biology, chemistry, computer science, geology, mathematics, nursing and physics. The degree programs also provide instruction in components of professional communication that are applicable to technical and scientific communication, such as document design and production, Web design, publications management, knowledge management, organizational and managerial communication, instructional design and training, rhetoric, and communication studies.

The range of courses in technical and scientific communication provides B.A. and B.S. students with advanced communication skills and training that enable them to build productive careers in business, industry, government or academia. The undergraduate programs also introduce students to current communication technologies such as desktop publishing and Web page construction that not only enable them to produce documents of professional quality during their studies but also train them in the technological tools that they will use throughout their careers. In addition, students learn the kinds of research, analytical and reasoning skills that will allow them to become leaders in technical and scientific communication. Finally, courses in international technical communication, including linguistic theory and application in technical and scientific communication, technical translation, international publication management and document internationalization, prepare TSC majors for the global market within the field.

The B.A. and B.S. programs emphasize scholarly, humanistic and social scientific perspectives on the function and application of technical and scientific communication. The central mission of both the B.A. and B.S. degrees, then, is to enable program graduates to grow as professionals and, ultimately, to contribute to the developing field of technical and scientific communication.

In addition to offering students the rhetorical tools with which to excel in the professions as technical communicators, the B.A. and B.S. programs also prepare graduates for academic studies at the master’s level.

Goals
The central objectives of the major programs are to help students:
- develop into accomplished writers and editors in the field.
- learn how to solve communication problems, whether in written or graphic form.
- enhance their understanding of how and why communication works.
- develop criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of technical and scientific communication.
- apply communication technologies that enhance their ability to design and produce print and online documents of professional quality both in terms of writing and graphics.
- improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their communication management.
- develop advanced research and analytical skills.
- create for themselves a concentration or cognate area of study within the technical or scientific field in which they intend to work as professional technical communicators.

Career Opportunities
The TSC B.A. and B.S. degrees are designed primarily for students seeking specialized education in technical communication theory and its application in work-world contexts. They combine work in theory, writing, text design and analysis of communication systems and

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Professional Activities and Organizations

STC Student Chapter

The STC Student Chapter provides significant resources to its members through several media: the Society organizes a broad range of activities designed to foster professional development between the undergraduate and graduate students in TSC. The JMU STC Student Chapter allows each of its members the opportunity to:

- network and make connections that could lead to a career.
- learn technical communication skills and techniques from experts in the field.
- get involved at JMU and become a student leader.
- access STC’s salary survey and jobs database.
- have an edge when applying for a job or internship by having STC on his or her resume.

The JMU STC Student Chapter provides significant resources to its members through various media:

- STC Annual Conference. This conference is the largest gathering of technical communicators. It can provide members with various networking and employment opportunities.
- Publications. In addition to the quarterly journal, Technical Communication, and the student chapter newsletter, Bytes & Pieces, members have the opportunity to receive information on a wide variety of subjects.
- Competitions, Scholarships and Grants. Members have the opportunity to become recognized and win awards through the many competitions the Society organizes.

Internship

The technical or scientific communication internship serves as an essential professional experience for B.A. and B.S. students. It requires students to call upon the preparation that they received from their TSC course work to design, write, edit and produce professional documents for internship providers in academia, business, industry and government.

The B.A. and B.S. programs require a 15 week (or 150 hour) internship. Many internships are taken with local and regional providers affiliated with the TSC program in such fields as telecommunications, writing and editing for publications, graphic design, production and printing, computer software documentation, medical writing, legal writing, and government writing. Internships are offered on a competitive basis. To apply for an internship, students must:

- make an appointment with the internship director.
- submit a TSC internship application.
- have completed 12 hours of course work: the three core courses in TSC (TSC 210, Introduction to Technical and Scientific Communication or TSC 220, Technical and Scientific Communication for Nonnative Speakers of English; TSC 230, Research in Technical and Scientific Communication; and TSC 240, Technical and Scientific Editing), plus one TSC elective (must be a TSC course).

Applicants should submit a completed dossier of the TSC internship application, writing samples and transcript to the TSC director the semester before which they hope to take the internship.

Write On!

Write On! is a campus-wide academic writing contest for both undergraduate and graduate students. The contest is open to academic writing produced in JMU classes (formal and informal essays, research papers, reports, etc.). The winning selections are published in an online collection.

General Education and Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies

The School of Communication and Rhetoric provides a variety of courses for students interested in technical communication, including sections for Honors students. The B.A. and B.S. programs require a 15 week (or 150 hour) internship. Many internships are taken with local and regional providers affiliated with the TSC program in such fields as telecommunications, writing and editing for publications, graphic design, production and printing, computer software documentation, medical writing, legal writing, and government writing. Internships are offered on a competitive basis. To apply for an internship, students must:

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General Education and Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies

The School is proud to participate in General Education by offering a focused course in first year composition, GWRIT 103, Critical Reading and Writing, including sections for Honors students. GWRIT 103 introduces students to academic writing and research, and prepares students for a writing intensive experience in the disciplines. As a course in the discipline of writing and rhetoric, GWRIT 103 introduces students to written argumentation such as they would practice in their personal, academic and civic lives and encourages them to analyze and reflect upon civic responsibility as it relates to written communication.

Students who have previously taken GWRIT 102 may substitute that course as an equivalent for GWRIT 103. WRIT 100 is available for ESL (English as a second language) students and others who may wish to enhance their writing preparation prior to taking GWRIT 103. Students who have received credit for GWRIT 101 are not eligible to receive credit for WRIT 100. Students who have received credit for GWRIT 102 or GWRIT 103 are not eligible to receive credit for WRIT 100.

Writing and Rhetoric Studies faculty are active participants in creating and sustaining the Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies (IDLS) major for teacher education students, K-8. This includes advising students, developing and staffing IDLS 400, Capstone Seminar, and making Writing minor courses available as electives to IDLS majors in the Humanities/Social Sciences concentration area.

GWRIT Placement and Exemptions

For information about how students may receive credit or exemptions for GWRIT 103, refer to Cluster One, Page 86.
Admission Requirements
Any student coming into JMU as a first year student without previous college experience may declare TSC as a major. However, any student who has completed one semester at JMU or another university must apply to TSC. To be admitted into the TSC B.A. or B.S. program, students must first satisfy all university general admission requirements. In addition, applicants to the program must submit to the director of the TSC institute an application dossier that contains the following material:

- A completed TSC application form
- A copy of the student’s Degree Progress Report
- A background and goals statement of no more than 500 words that explains how the B.A. or B.S. program would prepare the student for his or her anticipated career

A student’s SAT verbal, quantitative and analytical scores are considered in the admission process. Nonnative speakers of English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language and receive a score of at least 550. Applicants may use letters of recommendation and writing samples to support an application for financial aid.

Major and Degree Requirements
Course requirements differ between the B.A. and B.S. programs. Students in either program must successfully complete a minimum of 39 credit hours of undergraduate course work, which includes four core courses (12 credit hours) in TSC, nine credit hours of course work in a cognate area and 18 hours of TSC electives, of which 15 must be at the 300/400 level. In core courses (TSC 210 [TSC 220], TSC 230 and TSC 240), the student must make a “C” or better. If the student does not, he or she may not register for future TSC courses until a grade of “C” or better is earned in the core course(s). Of the TSC electives taken, only two courses may be outside TSC, the remaining must be TSC courses. B.A. and B.S. majors are required to complete a TSC internship.

The B.A. and B.S. programs in TSC are highly interdisciplinary and encourage students to take courses in a variety of fields. Many program electives are offered in academic units outside the institute, such as communication studies, computer information systems, computer science, integrated science and technology, and media arts and design. Students should check prerequisites for upper-level electives offered in other academic units. Students should also work with department advisers to design a program that fits their unique educational needs and career aspirations. Requirements of the TSC degree might mean that some students will take courses beyond the 120 hour university requirement for B.A. and B.S. degrees.

Bachelor of Arts in Technical and Scientific Communication

Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education¹</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language classes (intermediate level required)²</td>
<td>0-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy course (in addition to General Education courses)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University electives</td>
<td>23-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major requirements (listed below)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The General Education program contains a set of requirements each student must fulfill. The number of credit hours necessary to fulfill these requirements may vary.
2 The foreign language requirement may be satisfied by successful completion of the second semester of the intermediate level (typically 230) of the student’s chosen language or by placing out of that language through the Department of Foreign Language’s placement test.

Major Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Requirements</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choose TSC 210 or TSC 220:</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC 210, Introduction to Technical and Scientific Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC 220, Technical and Scientific Communication for Nonnative Speakers of English</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC 230, Research in Technical and Scientific Communication¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSC 240, Technical and Scientific Editing</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC 495, Internship in Technical and Scientific Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Electives</th>
<th>18</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TSC Genres</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TSC 350, Science and Technology in Literature</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC 410, Government Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC 420, Legal Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC 430, Medical Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC 440, Proposal Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSC 450, User Documentation</td>
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Rhetorical Theory

ENG 420, English Grammar
PHIL 250, Introduction to Symbolic Logic
PHIL 310, Symbolic Logic
SCOM 341, Persuasion
SCOM 342, Argument and Advocacy
TSC 310, Rhetorical Analysis
TSC 481, Beginning Web Theory and Design
TSC 482, Advanced Web Theory and Design

Organizational Context

Oral Communication
SOM 358, Business and Professional Communication Studies
TSC 360, Instructional Design and Training
Communication Within Organizations
TSC 330, Intercultural Technical and Scientific Communication
TSC 455, Managerial and Entrepreneurial Communication
SOM 248, Intercultural Communication
SOM 270, Introduction to Health Communication
SOM 350, Organizational Communication
SOM 353, American Political Culture and Communication
SOM 431, Legal Communication

Mediation and Negotiation
MGT 481, Negotiation Behavior
SOM 331, Communication and Conflict
SOM 332, Mediation
Communication Ethics and Law
SMAD 330, Multimedia Law
SMAD 370, Mass Communication Law
SMAD 471, Media Ethics
TSC 250, Ethical and Legal Issues in Technical and Scientific Communication

Communication Technologies
TSC 460, Beginning Topics in Online Publication
TSC 461, Intermediate Topics in Online Publication
TSC 462, Advanced Topics in Online Publication
CIS 301, Information Technology Tools and Methods
CIS 304, Information Technology
SOM 361, Public Relations II: Visual Research Methods

Research Methods
COB 291, Introduction to Management Science
GISAT 141, Analytical Methods I
ISAT 142, Analytical Methods II
MATH 325, Survey Sampling Methods
SOM 280, Introduction to Communication Research
SOM 383, Communication Research Methodologies
SOM 386, Communication Survey Research
B.A. Cognate
All B.A. majors must complete nine hours of lower-level course work in one or more scientific and/or technical programs. These nine credits may not be double counted toward either the General Education requirements or the TSC major requirements. Six of these nine hours must be at the 300/400 level. The programs include: anthropology, industrial design (art), biology, chemistry, communication sciences and disorders, communication studies, computer science, economics, geographic sciences, geology, health sciences, human resources development, integrated science and technology, kinesiology, mathematics, media arts and design, military science, music industry, physics, psychology, public policy and administration, sociology, and statistics. COB 204 and computer information systems are also recognized as cognate course areas. The cognate provides students with an understanding of fundamental terminology, theory and processes of a chosen technical or scientific discipline. While these students might not intend to work in professions that are highly technical or scientific, the working knowledge of a chosen cognate area allows them to converse at an introductory level in a technical or scientific discipline and enables them to build on this foundation should they later wish to seek mastery of a technical or scientific field.

Recommended Schedule for B.A. Majors
Students are encouraged to begin their TSC course work as soon as possible in their degree plans. The following sample program of study illustrates how a TSC major might earn a B.A. degree.

First Year
First Semester
Credit Hours
Foreign Language course 1 3-4
General Education Cluster One 9
General Education Cluster Three 3
15-16

Second Semester
Credit Hours
Foreign Language course 3-4
TSC 210. Introduction to Technical and Scientific Communication 3
General Education Cluster Three 3
General Education courses 6
15-16

Second Year
First Semester
Credit Hours
Foreign Language course 0-3
TSC 230. Research in Technical and Scientific Communication 3
TSC 240. Technical and Scientific Editing 3
General Education Cluster Three 4
B.A. Degree Philosophy course 3
General Education courses 0-3
16

Second Semester
Credit Hours
Foreign Language course 0-3
TSC elective course 3
General Education course 3
University elective courses 9
15-18

Bachelor of Science in Technical and Scientific Communication

Degree Requirements

Required Courses
Credit Hours
General Education 1 41
Quantitative requirement 2 3
Scientific Literacy requirement 2 3-4
University electives 33-34
Major requirements (listed below) 39
120

1 The General Education program contains a set of requirements each student must fulfill. The number of credit hours necessary to fulfill these requirements may vary.
2 In addition to course work taken to fulfill General Education requirement.

Major Requirements

Credit Hours
Choose one of the following:
TSC 210. Introduction to Technical and Scientific Communication 3
TSC 220. Technical and Scientific Communication for Nonnative Speakers of English
TSC 230. Research in Technical and Scientific Communication 1 3
TSC 240. Technical and Scientific Editing 3
TSC 495. Internship in Technical and Scientific Communication 3
Electives 18

1 Completion of an intermediate level foreign language is required for the B.A. degree (usually six hours if begun at the intermediate level unless the language requirement is satisfied by an exemption test. In that case, university electives may be substituted for additional hours indicated as foreign language courses.

TSC Genres
TSC 350. Science and Technology in Literature
TSC 410. Government Writing
TSC 420. Legal Writing
TSC 430. Medical Writing
TSC 440. Proposal Writing
TSC 450. User Documentation

Organizational Context
Oral Communication
SCOM 358. Business and Professional Communication Studies
TSC 360. Instructional Design and Training
Communication Within Organizations
TSC 339. Intercultural Technical and Scientific Communication

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Recommended Schedule for B.S. Majors

First Year

First Semester
- General Education Cluster One: 9
- General Education Cluster Three: 3-6
- General Education courses: 3

Second Semester
- TSC 210. Introduction to Technical and Scientific Communication: 3
- General Education Cluster Three: 3-4
- Genera Education courses: 9

Second Year

First Semester
- TSC 240. Technical and Scientific Editing: 3
- General Education Cluster Three: 0-4
- General Education courses: 6-9

Second Semester
- TSC elective course: 3
- B.S. Quantitative requirement course: 3
- General Education courses: 9

Third Year

First Semester
- TSC elective courses: 6
- B.S. cognate elective course: 3
- B.S. Scientific Literacy course¹: 3
- University elective course: 3

Second Semester
- TSC elective course: 3
- B.S. cognate elective: 3
- University elective courses: 9

Fourth Year

First Semester
- TSC elective course: 3
- B.S. cognate elective course: 3
- University elective courses: 9

Second Semester
- TSC Electives: 3
- B.S. cognate elective: 0-3
- University electives: 7-9

¹ Completion of the B.S. degree requires a student to complete either a natural science or a social science course in addition to those required for the General Education program. A student may double-count this course as one of the courses needed for the cognate with approval by the TSC director.

Concentrations

There are three concentrations available: Online Publications, Publication Management, and Technical and Scientific Communication in the Public Sector. A student may only pursue a maximum of two concentrations. If pursuing two concentrations, the student may only double-count one course.

Description of Curriculum

Each concentration requires a minimum of 15 hours of course work beyond the core requirements, counting toward the major but not toward a cognate. Details for each concentration are listed below.

Online Publications Concentration

The online publication concentration prepares students to work in a variety of Web-based environments in business, information technology industries and nonprofit institutions. Employers of TSC graduates tend to expect them to develop the same information for both print and online sources. This concentration prepares students for employers with this expectation.

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Students learn theories of Web design and navigation as they apply the theories to technical communication in an online environment. They also learn single-sourcing techniques. Graduates will be able to evaluate, revise, negotiate, manage, sustain and reorganize large Web sites. They learn the differences in design and layout principles between print and online documents. They develop competence in designing, writing, coding and producing online Web documents. They also compare industry-standard authoring tools and programs, and learn to write and edit authoring programs and online databases. In sum, students learn the importance of the integration of all elements of an effective online technical communication document.

Core Requirements
TSC 210. Introduction to Technical and Scientific Communication
TSC 230. Research in Technical and Scientific Communication
TSC 240. Technical and Scientific Editing
TSC 495. Internship in Technical and Scientific Communication

Publications Management Concentration
The publication management concentration prepares students to manage a variety of publications for an organization. The specialized nature of our degree moves our students into managerial positions quickly, and this concentration prepares them with training in management of publications for the business and government fields. Also, many of our graduates are hired to start up companies, and they are expected to work as independent workers. This concentration keeps students competitive in the industry and, once hired, prepares them to be promoted quickly. Some of the activities publications managers perform are the following: prepare and manage editorial policy of professional publications; plan and manage the life-cycle of publications, including managing and working within project teams; create document publication schedules; review and edit submissions for print and electronic publications; and collaborate with authors.

Core Requirements
TSC 210. Introduction to Technical and Scientific Communication
TSC 230. Research in Technical and Scientific Communication
TSC 240. Technical and Scientific Editing
TSC 495. Internship in Technical and Scientific Communication

Publications Management Electives (choose five from the following)
TSC 460. Beginning Topics in Online Publication
TSC 461. Intermediate Topics in Online Publication
TSC 462. Advanced Topics in Online Publication
TSC 481. Beginning Web Theory and Design
TSC 482. Advanced Web Theory and Design

Online Publication Electives (choose five from the following)
TSC 450. User Documentation
TSC 460. Introduction to Technical and Scientific Communication
TSC 480. Special Topics: Student Publications
TSC 483. Special Topics: Project Management

A TSC electronic-intensive course (choose from 460, 481, 482)

Technical and Scientific Communication in the Public Sector Concentration
The technical and scientific communication in the public sector concentration prepares students to work in government, government-related and nonprofit organizations. TSC graduates working in these organizations manage teams and work with clients and prepare a range of technical and scientific print and online documents. The skills and knowledge emphasized in this concentration make our graduates attractive to employers in metropolitan areas nationwide.

Core Requirements
TSC 210. Introduction to Technical and Scientific Communication
TSC 230. Research in Technical and Scientific Communication
TSC 240. Technical and Scientific Editing
TSC 495. Internship in Technical and Scientific Communication

TSC in the Public Sector Electives (choose five from the following)
TSC 250. Ethical and Legal Issues in Technical and Scientific Communication
TSC 310. Rhetorical Analysis
TSC 330. Intercultural Technical and Scientific Communication
TSC 410. Government Writing
TSC 420. Legal Writing
TSC 440. Proposal Writing

A TSC electronic-intensive course (choose from 460, 481, 482)

Minor Requirements

Technical and Scientific Communication
The minimum requirement for a TSC minor is 18 credit hours. Nine of the 18 hours must be TSC core courses (TSC 210, Introduction to Technical and Scientific Communication or TSC 220, Technical and Scientific Communication for Nonnative Speakers of English, TSC 230, Research in Technical and Scientific Communication, and TSC 240, Technical and Scientific Editing). The remaining nine hours may be from any upper-level TSC elective. In core courses (TSC 210 (TSC 220), TSC 230 and TSC 240) the student must make a “C” or better. If the student does not, he or she may not register for future TSC courses until a grade of “C” or better is earned in the core course(s). Students majoring in disciplines within the School of Media Arts and Design or the School of Communication Studies can count no more than three hours of SMAD or SCOM course work toward the TSC minor.

Writing and Rhetoric
The Minor in Writing and Rhetoric is designed for students who wish to extend, enrich and formalize their education as writers. The minimum requirement for the minor is 18 credit hours.

Required core courses:
WRIT 210. Critical Reading and Argumentation
WRIT 220. Rhetorical Traditions

Electives from among the following:
At least one elective must be at the 400 level.
WRIT/ENG 290. Intermediate Composition
WRIT 310. Studies in Literacy
WRIT 320. Writing in the Public Sphere
WRIT 322. Making a Difference: Service Learning Writing
WRIT 330. Technology and Writing
WRIT 340. Teaching Writing
WRIT 345. Tutoring Writing
WRIT/SCOM 351. Visual Rhetoric
WRIT 395. Internship
WRIT/ENG 396. Advanced Composition
WRIT 399. Independent Study in Rhetoric and Writing
WRIT 400. Special Topics Seminar in Rhetoric and Writing
WRIT 410. Studies in Cultural Rhetorics
WRIT/SCOM/WMST 420. Feminist Rhetorics
WRIT 430. Style and Stylistics

Experimental WRIT courses may be counted as electives, as well as writing courses offered by other academic units (with the approval of the writing minor adviser or the program director).

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