

Public and Professional Writing Major

www.composition.pitt.edu

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The Public and Professional Writing (PPW) major in the Department of English allows students to undertake rigorous intellectual work that will deepen their engagement with writing as a form of social action and professional exchange that has consequences in the world. Students in the major can expect to address critical questions in public and professional writing; learn how to use the forms and genres of particular professions or fields; learn how to compose effectively on behalf of an organization or campaign; learn how to create engaging documents and carry out inquiry projects for a particular audience; compose using appropriate modalities and technology; compose with awareness of textual forms and conventions; conduct responsible and ethical research; explore the history and politics of writing in specific contexts; engage with public debates over language, globalization, education, and writing; and compose as a creative and disciplined form of critical inquiry. PPW majors can expect to find jobs in the nonprofit sector, government, or the commercial sector.

Required courses for the major

The Public and Professional Writing BA requires the completion of 33 credits, distributed as follows.

Students may choose to follow clusters of courses that will lead to in-depth study in specific areas or for specific career paths: Writing to Support Scientific Research, Preparing for Law School, Writing for Nonprofits, Writing for Business, Teaching and Composition Studies, Advertising and PR Writing, Composing Digital Media, Editing and Publishing, Preparing for Graduate School, Public Engagement, and others. See the department's Web site for a list of possible clusters that apply to this major.

Prerequisites

The Seminar in Composition requirement must be completed prior to enrollment in any ENGCOMP courses at or above the 0400-level. A Seminar in Composition course can be selected from the following list.

ENGCOMP 0200 Seminar in Composition
ENGCOMP 0203 Seminar in Comp: Gender Studies
ENGCOMP 0205 Seminar in Composition: Film
ENGCOMP 0207 Seminar in Composition: Education
ENGCOMP 0208 Seminar in Comp: Service-Learning
ENGCOMP 0210 Seminar in Comp: Writing with Film
FP 0003 First-Year Seminar
FP 0006 First-Year Seminar

Core courses

ENGCOMP 0420 Writing for the Public +
ENGCOMP 0560 Writing Arguments +
ENGCOMP 1551 History and Politics of English Language
ENGCOMP 1900 PPW Internship **or** ENGCOMP 1901 UTA:
Teaching or Tutoring Writing + *
ENGCOMP 1910 Senior Seminar +

+ Students must earn a letter grade of C or better in these courses, or a passing grade if taken on an S/NC basis.

* These courses must be taken for three credits.

Three 1000-level courses

Students must complete three ENGCOMP courses at the 1000-level or above.

Three elective courses

Students must complete three courses at the 0400-level or above.

Related area: A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Dietrich School department chosen in consultation with the major advisor. The completion of an official Dietrich School minor or a Dietrich School or UCIS certificate also satisfies this requirement.

Grade requirements: A grade of C or better is required in ENGCOMP 0420 Writing for the Public and ENGCOMP 0560 Writing Arguments.

Satisfactory/No Credit option: There is no limit to the number of courses that may be taken on the S/NC basis for this major.

Writing (W) requirement: Most ENGCOMP courses satisfy the W requirement. Students pursuing a second major are required to complete an additional W-course for the major in that department.

Advising:

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Checklist for the Public and Professional Writing major

Prerequisites; one of the following courses

- _____ ENGCOMP 0200 Seminar in Composition
- _____ ENGCOMP 0203 Seminar in Comp: Gender Studies
- _____ ENGCOMP 0205 Seminar in Composition: Film
- _____ ENGCOMP 0207 Seminar in Composition: Education
- _____ ENGCOMP 0208 Seminar in Comp: Service-Learning
- _____ ENGCOMP 0210 Seminar in Comp: Writing with Film
- _____ FP 0003 First-Year Seminar
- _____ FP 0006 First-Year Seminar

Core courses; all of the following courses

- _____ ENGCOMP 0420 Writing for the Public
- _____ ENGCOMP 0560 Writing Arguments
- _____ ENGCOMP 1551 History and Politics of English Language
- _____ ENGCOMP 1900 PPW Internship **or** ENGCOMP 1901 UTA: Teaching or Tutoring Writing *
- _____ ENGCOMP 1910 Senior Seminar

* These courses must be taken for three credits.

Three 1000-level courses

- _____ ENGCOMP 1000-level or above
- _____ ENGCOMP 1000-level or above
- _____ ENGCOMP 1000-level or above

Three elective courses; these courses must be from the 0400- level or above

- _____ ENGCOMP elective
- _____ ENGCOMP elective
- _____ ENGCOMP elective

ENGCOMP courses that fulfill requirements for the major; additional courses are listed on the program's Web site.

- ENGCOMP 0400 Written Professional Communication
- ENGCOMP 0410 Writing for the Legal Professions
- ENGCOMP 0420 Writing for the Public
- ENGCOMP 0425 Digital Humanity
- ENGCOMP 0440 Critical Writing
- ENGCOMP 0450 Research Writing
- ENGCOMP 0500 Topics in Composition
- ENGCOMP 0510 Narratives of the Workplace
- ENGCOMP 0515 Persuasive Writing in Advertising
- ENGCOMP 0520 Integrating Writing and Design
- ENGCOMP 0530 Writing for the Sciences
- ENGCOMP 0535 Writing for the Health Science Professions
- ENGCOMP 0550 Topics in Public and Professional Writing
- ENGCOMP 0560 Writing Arguments
- ENGCOMP 0600 Introduction to Technical Writing
- ENGCOMP 0610 Composing Digital Media
- ENGCOMP 0620 Theories of Writing and Teaching
- ENGCOMP 0641 Writing for Change
- ENGCOMP 1100 Language of Business & Industry
- ENGCOMP 1101 Language of Science and Technology
- ENGCOMP 1102 Language of Medicine
- ENGCOMP 1103 Public Relations Writing
- ENGCOMP 1104 Creative Corporate Writing
- ENGCOMP 1111 Professional Writing in Global Contexts
- ENGCOMP 1112 Professional Uses of Social Media
- ENGCOMP 1151 Professional Editing in Context
- ENGCOMP 1200 Advanced Topics in Composition
- ENGCOMP 1210 Tutoring Peer Writers
- ENGCOMP 1220 The Art of the Essay
- ENGCOMP 1250 Advanced Topics in Public and Professional Writing
- ENGCOMP 1400 Grant Writing
- ENGCOMP 1410 Advanced Research and Documentary Writing
- ENGCOMP 1510 Writing with Style
- ENGCOMP 1551 History and Politics of the English Language
- ENGCOMP 1552 Language, Literacy, and Learning
- ENGCOMP 1900 Internship: Public and Professional Writing
- ENGCOMP 1901 Undergraduate Teaching Experience in Teaching and Tutoring Writing
- ENGCOMP 1902 Independent Study in Public and Professional Writing
- ENGCOMP 1903 Service-Learning Seminar in Public and Professional Writing
- ENGCOMP 1910 Senior Seminar in Public and Professional Writing