University of PITTSBURGH | Dietrich School

Public and Professional Writing Major

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 ENGCMP courses at or above the 0400-level. A Seminar in Composition course can be selected from the following list.

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

Core courses

ENGCMP 0420 Writing for the Public +
ENGCMP 0560 Writing Arguments +
ENGCMP 1551 History and Politics of English Language
ENGCMP 1900 PPW Internship or ENGCMP 1901 UTA: Teaching or
        Tutoring Writing + *
ENGCMP 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 ENGCMP courses at the 1000-level or above.

Three elective courses

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

Grade requirements

A grade of C or better is required in ENGCMP 0420 Writing for the Public and ENGCMP 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 ENGCMP 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
_____ ENGCMP 0200 Seminar in Composition
_____ ENGCMP 0203 Seminar in Comp: Gender Studies
_____ ENGCMP 0205 Seminar in Composition: Film
_____ ENGCMP 0207 Seminar in Composition: Education
_____ ENGCMP 0208 Seminar in Comp: Service-Learning
_____ ENGCMP 0210 Seminar in Comp: Writing with Film
_____ FP 0003 First-Year Seminar
_____ FP 0006 First-Year Seminar

Core courses; all of the following courses
_____ ENGCMP 0420 Writing for the Public
_____ ENGCMP 0560 Writing Arguments
_____ ENGCMP 1551 History and Politics of English Language
_____ ENGCMP 1900 PPW Internship or ENGCMP 1901 UTA:
               Teaching or Tutoring Writing *
_____ ENGCMP 1910 Senior Seminar

* These courses must be taken for three credits.

Three 1000-level courses
_____ ENGCMP 1000-level or above
_____ ENGCMP 1000-level or above
_____ ENGCMP 1000-level or above

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

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

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