

**OVERVIEW**

The MA concentration in Professional Writing and Rhetoric (PWR) is oriented to workplace uses of language. In addition to training in pragmatic skills, the concentration is characterized by a self-reflexive attention to workplaces as institutions and sites for rhetorical action. Courses on research and theory in nonfiction writing complement instruction in rhetoric, editing, technical communications, digital publication, and ethnography to prepare you for the role of writer and communicator in the private and public sectors. Instruction in research methodologies meld archival with the most current technological advances to equip you with valuable research tools and strategies, while courses in literature, media studies, folklore, and linguistics provide insight into language and writing practices across a variety of contexts.

**RESEARCH IN PWR**

PWR projects and theses may adopt any of the theoretical, textual, observational, or historical approaches that advance knowledge in Rhetoric, Composition, and Professional and Technical Writing. Approaches include rhetorical analysis, discourse analysis, ethnography, case study, usability studies, historical analysis, and action research. Methods may include—but are not limited to—discourse analysis, rhetorical analysis, content analysis, interview, survey, focus group, observation, participant observation, user and task analysis, document testing, and usability testing.

**PLANNING YOUR COURSE OF STUDY**

You must complete 30 credit hours of coursework in this program. Consult the schedule of classes each term to see which courses in literature are offered. Consult the University Catalog for a complete listing of English courses.

*Please note: Additional information on this concentration, courses, and graduate student policies is available in the MA in English Student Handbook. More information on this program may be found at [pwr.gmu.edu](http://pwr.gmu.edu).*

**CORE COURSE 3 CREDIT HOURS** \_\_\_\_\_

ENGH 501: Introduction to Professional Writing and Rhetoric

**RESEARCH COURSE 3 CREDIT HOURS** \_\_\_\_\_

ENGH 502: Research Methods in Rhetoric and Writing

**PROFESSIONAL WRITING & RHETORIC COURSES 6 CREDIT HOURS**

Choose from among: \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

ENGH 503: Theory and Practice of Editing	ENGH 611: Studies in Rhetoric
ENGH 504: Internship in Writing and Editing	ENGH 612: Cultures in Professional Writing
ENGH 505: Document Design	ENGH 613: Technical Communication
ENGH 507: Web Authoring and Design	ENGH 697: Composition Theory
ENGH 508: Digital Rhetoric	

**WRITING COURSE 3 CREDIT HOURS** \_\_\_\_\_

Select a course from the nonfiction writing courses below (or from the professional writing & rhetoric courses above):

ENGH 506: Research for Narrative Writing	ENGH 695: Writing and Learning
ENGH 565: Forms of Nonfiction*	ENGH 699: Workshop in English
ENGH 615: Proseminar in Composition Instruction	
ENGH 616: Nonfiction Writing Workshop (prerequisite: ENGH 565)	
ENGH 619: Special Topics in Writing	

*\*Please note: ENGH 565 is only available to non-MFA students during the spring semester. This class is reserved for MFA students each fall semester.*

**THEORY COURSE 3 CREDIT HOURS** \_\_\_\_\_

Choose from among:

ENGH 514: Theories in Comparative Literature	ENGH 675: Feminist Theory and Criticism
ENGH 551: Literary Criticism	ENGH 705: Literary Theory and Criticism
ENGH 670: Visual Culture: Theories and Histories	CULT 676: Introduction to Cultural Studies

**ELECTIVE COURSES 6 CREDIT HOURS** \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

Select any course offered by the English department to fulfill your elective credits.

**PROJECT (1) OR THESIS (2) OPTION 6 CREDIT HOURS**

**(1.A) ELECTIVE COURSE 3 CREDIT HOURS** \_\_\_\_\_

Take any course from the above areas or a course from another discipline that supports your writing and research interests to fulfill this requirement; ideally, the elective is related to your capstone project. Some courses may need special approval from the individual instructors and the department. You should consult your adviser.

**(1.B) CAPSTONE COURSE 3 CREDIT HOURS** \_\_\_\_\_

ENGH 797: Projects in Professional Writing and Rhetoric

.....OR.....

**(2) THESIS 6 CREDIT HOURS** \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

ENGH 799: Thesis

You may opt out of the elective and capstone courses and write a thesis that contributes new knowledge to the fields of professional writing, rhetoric, or technical communication.

### **NON-COURSE REQUIREMENT: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

*Intermediate proficiency corresponds to Mason's coursework through the 202 or 210 level. Generally speaking, this level represents four consecutive semesters in a given language (e.g. French 101, 102, 201, and 202), although the number of courses varies depending on the university at which they were taken.*

Students may satisfy this requirement in one of the following ways:

- Confirm that your undergraduate (or continuing education) transcript includes courses corresponding to intermediate proficiency. If you completed your undergraduate studies at Mason, you have fulfilled the language requirement.
- Take a proficiency exam administered by the English department if your language proficiency is German, Russian, French, or Spanish. Contact the graduate programs manager to schedule an exam.
- Take a proficiency exam administered in the Modern and Classical Languages department if your proficiency is in a language other than German, Russian, French, or Spanish. Contact MCL to determine whether appropriate exams are administered.
- Take courses at Mason or elsewhere through the intermediate level. Make sure the intermediate level elsewhere corresponds to that at Mason.

Please contact the graduate programs manager soon after enrolling to determine how you will meet the language proficiency requirement. The graduate programs manager can be reached at 703.993.1180.

*Please note: Even if you complete your foreign language coursework at Mason, you must contact the graduate programs manager to complete the necessary paperwork.*