

Assessment Plan for the Master's in Writing

Major Goal of Professional Writing and Rhetorics Sequence

The sequence seeks to prepare students to bring English Studies to professional and civic contexts where language and texts are involved in social and organizational change. The complexity of such literacies requires technical competencies in writing, editing, and designing texts. In our program, these competencies are rhetorically informed, guided by an understanding of the ethical, legal, economic, and political consequences of professional practices in the workplace, in the public forum, and in private lives.

Major Goal of Teaching of Writing Sequence:

The sequence seeks to offer students advanced work in the theory and practice of the teaching of writing and produce writing teachers of the highest caliber.

Objectives for Both Sequences

Graduates of the Master's in Writing will

- demonstrate advanced knowledge of research and theory in language, literature, and composing;
- master two areas of concentration among rhetoric, writing, language, or teaching;
- learn how to set up, research/execute, and report an internship practicum;
- research and compose a Master's thesis or a teaching portfolio, or learn how to successfully design and execute comprehensive examination plans;
- demonstrate critical and analytical reading skills in their areas of research;
- demonstrate the ability to write rhetorically and skillfully;
- work successfully in a teaching or professional practicum.

How Objectives of Program are Assessed Systematically

- All candidates for the Master's in Writing degree complete a minimum of 10 or 11 courses: 10 if the student chooses to write a thesis or complete a professional portfolio, and 11 if the student chooses to take the comprehensive exam;
- All candidates for the Master's in Writing must a) take a comprehensive exam; b) write a thesis; or c) complete a professional portfolio; and
- All candidates for the Master's in Writing are encouraged to present their research and creative productions at local, state, national, and international academic conferences.