WRITING STUDIES GRADUATE CONCENTRATION

for the Writing Studies Graduate Concentration

center director & director of graduate studies: Paul Prior
overview of grad college admissions & requirements: https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply
college website: https://las.illinois.edu/
program website: http://www.cws.illinois.edu/
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The Center for Writing Studies (CWS) facilitates research and promotes
graduate study in the areas of rhetoric, written composition, language,
and literacy. CWS offers graduate students pursuing doctoral degrees in
participating departments a program leading to a concentration in Writing
Studies. Graduate students pursuing the concentration may be enrolled
in the participating departments of English, Communication, Art and
Design, Curriculum and Instruction, Library and Information Science, or
other departments from across campus with the approval of the student’s
home department.

Writing Studies Graduate Concentration
Participating Programs:

Communication, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/
communication-phd)
Curriculum & Instruction, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/
graduate/education/curriculum-instruction-phd)
Educational Policy, Organization & Leadership, EdD (http://
catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/education-policy-
organization-leadership-edd)
Educational Policy, Organization & Leadership, PhD (http://
catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/education-policy-
organization-leadership-phd)
English, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/english-
phd)
Information Sciences, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/
graduate/is/information-science-phd)

Graduate students may elect to pursue a concentration in Writing
Studies at the PhD level. Students take two foundational courses for the
concentration to introduce them to the field, along with two methodology
courses to ready them for their research. The first pair of requirements
(ENGL 505/CI 563; and one of the following theme-focused courses: ENGL 506/CI 564, ENGL 583/CI 566, ENGL 584/CI 569 or a 500-level
course approved for this requirement by the CWS Graduate Programs
Committee) provides a historical background in Writing Studies while
at the same time assuring knowledge of current issues through the
reading and analysis of texts that mark the field. The second pair of
requirements (ENGL 582/CI 565 and a second approved methodology
course) introduces students in depth to strands of writing studies
research - historical, empirical, and theoretical. In addition, graduate
students take two courses from across the university that focus on
the study of writing but that also open up avenues for interdisciplinary
inquiry, a key dimension of this area of study. English, Anthropology,
Curriculum and Instruction, Library and Information Science, Educational
Policy Studies, Sociology, Communication, and Art and Design are among
the departments from which students commonly select courses.

Admission
Students are admitted into graduate study through their home
departments and the Graduate College. Students may petition to add
the concentration at the point of admission or after they have begun
graduate study. The petition to add the concentration must be approved
by the Center for Writing Studies, the home department, and the Graduate
College. (Please note that the Department of English offers separate
MA and PhD tracks specializing in Writing Studies; see the Department
of English for admission requirements to these degree programs.)
Graduate students planning to concentrate in Writing Studies must fulfill
the degree requirements of their home department in addition to the
Writing Studies’ requirements. In consultation with the home department,
students determine whether the Writing Studies’ concentration is
appropriate for their plan of study. Students should meet with a faculty
advisor in their own department and also set up a meeting to discuss
their program of concentration with the Director of the Center for Writing
Studies.

Faculty Research Interests
Specific faculty interests include research in literacy studies, digital
media, rhetorical studies, globalization and language, disability studies,
cultural-historical activity theory, feminist theory and pedagogy, genre
theory, technical communication and other areas of study related to the
development of language and policy.

Facilities and Resources
CWS has a multidisciplinary group of core and affiliated faculty. It is home
to the campus’s Writing across the Curriculum Program and the Writers
Workshop, a campus-wide tutorial facility; a sponsor of an electronic
discussion group on writing across the curriculum, and a co-founder of
the University of Illinois Writing Project (UIWP), a site of the National
Writing Project

Financial Aid
Graduate students may receive assistantships as consultants in the
Writers Workshop, as teachers in the Writing Across Media courses, as
assistant directors of CWS programs, and as research assistants to CWS
faculty.

for the Writing Studies Graduate Concentration

For additional details and requirements refer to the
department’s concentration requirements (http://www.cws.illinois.edu/
grduate/phd) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://
www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 505</td>
<td>Writing Studies &amp; ENGL 583 and Topics Writing Pedagogy &amp; Design</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ENGL 584</td>
<td>Topics Discourse and Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Or 500-level course approved for this requirement by the CWS Graduate Programs Committee</td>
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Methods Courses

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 582</td>
<td>Topics Research and Writing</td>
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& one other methods course approved by the Director of the Center for Writing Studies

Elective hours from approved CWS list in consultation with your advisor | 8

Total Hours | 24

**Other Requirements**

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Other requirements may overlap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students must prepare and deliver a lecture based on their research to faculty and students for the CWS Colloquium Series: Graduate Research Forum.</td>
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<td>The dissertation must demonstrably focus on Writing Studies (with a topic approved by the CWS Director) and be guided by CWS-affiliated faculty that serve on the dissertation committee.</td>
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