

## Proposal to Revise the English Department's Writing and Literacy Concentration

### *Overview*

The English department proposes the following revisions to the curriculum of its Writing and Literacy area of concentration:

1. Rename the concentration "Professional and Public Writing"
2. Restructure the requirements in the "Concentration Core"
3. Limit the number of capstone course options

These revisions will more clearly communicate the concentration's requirements to current students. They will also better represent the goals of the concentration to prospective students and community members.

### *Rename the Concentration "Professional and Public Writing"*

The name "Writing and Literacy" uses the term "literacy" to refer to *the study of reading and writing as social/material practices in personal, professional, and scholarly contexts* (see Brandt 2001, Street 1984). While it accurately describes the concentration's goals, this term is likely unclear to non-specialists. Notably, none of IUPUI's official peer institutions has an undergraduate major, concentration, or other program that uses the word "literacy."

Renaming the concentration would bring the department in line with national trends. In her recent analysis of undergraduate programs, Jamison (2018) found that terms like "composition" are being replaced with more writing-centric terms (e.g. "writing studies," "professional writing") in the titles of degree programs. Among IUPUI's 12 peer institutions, over half (n=7) have programs with titles that use "writing" to describe work that is similar to that being done in the Writing and Literacy concentration (e.g. "Certificate in Writing" or "English Writing, Rhetoric & Technology Major"). Of the six peer institutions that use concentrations or tracks, four have programs in professional writing. (These figures do not include programs in creative writing.)

The phrase "professional and public writing" accurately describes the course work in the concentration. This includes classes that address writing in the workplace (e.g. ENG W-331 Business and Administrative Writing; ENG-W 426 Writing for Popular and Professional Publication) and classes that address writing in other contexts (e.g. ENG-W 315 Writing for the Web; ENG-W 377 Writing for Social Change).

The name "Professional and Public Writing" will appear in advising documents, in promotional materials, and on students' transcripts. The department believes this visibility will more clearly articulate the work that the concentration is already doing to a wider audience.

### *Restructure the requirements in the "Concentration Core"*

Currently, the Writing and Literacy concentration requirements are organized into four sections. The largest of these sections is the "Concentration Core" which lists 26 courses divided between two subsections. In an effort to make this section more usable for students

and more representative of our program goals, the English Department proposes the following revisions:

- Combine Sub-Subsections
  - The sub-subsections “Group 1: Writing in Context” and “Group 2: Editing, Teaching, and Publishing” will be combined into one subsection called “Writing Experience.” Students will be required to take nine credits from this sub-section.
- Create New Subsection: “Style and Editing”
  - A new, three-credit subsection (“Style and Editing”) will be created by grouping together the following courses:
    - ENG-W 262 Style and Voice in Writing
    - ENG-W 365 Theories and Practices of Editing
    - ENG-Z 204 Rhetorical Issues in Grammar and Usage
- Rename Subsection
  - The subsection “Understanding Literacy and Language” will be renamed “Culture and Rhetoric.”
- Remove Nine Courses
  - The following courses are no longer routinely taught in the concentration. They will be removed from the requirements to streamline advising documents:
    - ENG-W 312 Writing Biography
    - ENG-W 320 Advanced Writing in the Arts and Sciences
    - ENG-W 367 Writing for Multiple Media
  - The concentration will no longer count courses taught in the School of Engineering, unless approved by the concentration director. The following courses will be removed:
    - TCM 32000 Written Communication in Science and History
    - TCM 34000 Correspondence in Business and Industry
    - TCM 42500 Managing Document Quality
    - TCM 45000 Research Approaches for Technical and Professional Communication
  - The following English courses are being removed from the “Concentration Core” section but may still be counted toward the “English Experience” requirement.
    - ENG-Z 301 History of the English Language
    - ENG-W 280 Literary Editing and Publishing
- Add one course
  - The course ENG-W 397 Writing Center Theory and Practice will be added to the “Writing Experience” subsection. This course replaced ENG-W 496 Writing Tutor Training Seminar as the required course for training writing center consultants.
- Create a “Concentration Elective” Category
  - To allow students more control over their program of study, a new three credit hour requirement, the “Concentration Elective,” will be created. Students can meet this requirement by taking an additional course from “Concentration Core” or by taking one of the following courses so long as it has not been used to fulfill the School of Liberal Arts Writing Proficiency requirement.

- ENG-W 230 Science Writing
- ENG-W 231 Professional Writing
- ENG-W 270 Argumentative Writing
- To compensate for this new requirement, the “Concentration Core” is being reduced by three credit hours. This means that the “Concentration Core” will require 15 credit hours rather than 18 credit hours.

*Limit the number of capstone course options*

To encourage students to take the concentration-specific capstone course, only the following courses will be accepted for the “Capstone” requirement:

- ENG-W 426 Writing for Popular and Professional Publication (*recommended*)
- ENG-E 450 Capstone Seminar
- ENG-E 398 Internship in English (*with permission from director*)

*Closing*

The English Department argues that these changes will improve the accessibility of the Writing and Literacy concentration area for our students and for the wider IUPUI community.

The changes detailed above, along with some other minor changes, are further explained in the attached Curricular Change form.

## Appendix A: Current Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English (ENG) requires satisfactory completion of the following:

- Completion of general education and distribution requirements as indicated in the School of Liberal Arts section of the IUPUI bulletin that was current when the student declared a major in English.
- Completion of a total of 33 credit hours, with a minimum grade of C in each course.
- Completion of one of the following six concentrations: Creative Writing, Film Studies, Language and Linguistics, Literature, Writing and Literacy, or English Studies.
- 15 credit hours in English (ENG) at the 300-400 level, plus the Capstone course.
- Any course, unless specified as repeatable for credit, may be used only once to fill requirements within a concentration.

### Credit Hours

#### Gateway Course

3

- ENG-W 210 Literacy and Public Life

#### Concentration Core

18

**Understanding Literacy and Language (6 cr.)** Choose two (at least one must be a W course)

- ENG-W 262 Style and Voice in Writing
- ENG-W 310 Language and the Study of Writing
- ENG-W 366 Written Englishes: Living Cultural Realities
- ENG-W 390 Topics in Writing & Literacy (Health Literacy)
- ENG-W 412 Technology and Literacy
- ENG-Z 204 Rhetorical issues in Grammar and Usage
- ENG-Z 301 History of the English Language

**The Practice of Writing (12 cr.)** (no more than 6 TCM credits)

*Group 1: Writing in Context (at least 3 cr.):*

- ENG-W 312 Writing Biography
- ENG-W 313 The Art of Fact: Writing Nonfiction Prose
- ENG-W 320 Advanced Writing in the Arts and Sciences
- ENG-W 331 Business and Administrative Writing
- ENG-W 377 Writing for Social Change
- TCM 32000 Written Communication in Science and History
- TCM 34000 Correspondence in Business and Industry
- TCM 35000 Visual Technical Communication
- TCM 45000 Research Approaches for Technical and Professional Communication

*Group 2: Editing, Teaching, and Publishing (at least 3 cr.)*

- ENG-W 280 Literary Editing and Publishing
- ENG-W 315 Writing for the Web
- ENG-W 318 Finding your E-voice
- ENG-W 365 Theories and Practices of Editing
- ENG-W 367 Writing for Multiple Media
- ENG-W 390 Topics in Writing & Literacy (Second Language Writing)
- ENG-W 400 Issues in Teaching Writing
- ENG-W 426 Writing Nonfiction: Popular and Professional Publication
- ENG-W 496 Writing Tutor Training Seminar

- TCM 42500 Managing Document Quality

**English Experience**

**9**

**Film Studies or Literature (3 cr.)**

FILM-C or ENG-L courses 200 - 400 level

- \_\_\_\_\_

**Linguistics (3 cr.)**

or English elective 200 - 400 level, if linguistics (ENG-Z) taken in core

- \_\_\_\_\_

**Elective (other than Writing & Literacy) (3 cr.)**

Choose one 200- or higher level course in another area of the department

- \_\_\_\_\_

**Capstone**

**3**

**Recommended capstone options:**

- ENG-E 398 Internship in English
- ENG-E 450 Capstone Seminar
- ENG-W 426 Writing Nonfiction: Popular and Professional Publication
- ENG-W 496 Writing Tutor Training Seminar

**Other capstone options:**

- ENG-L 440 Senior Seminar in English and American Literature
- ENG-L 433 Conversations with Shakespeare

**TOTAL**

**33  
Credit Hours**

## Appendix B: Proposed Requirements

### English Major – Professional and Public Writing

The Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English (ENG) requires satisfactory completion of the following:

- Completion of the general education and distribution requirements as indicated in the School of Liberal Art section of the IUPUI bulletin that was current when the student declared a major in English.
- Completion of a total of 33 credit hours, with a minimum grade of C in each course.
- Completion of one of the following six concentrations: Creative Writing, Film Studies, Linguistics, Literature, Professional and Public Writing, or English Studies
- **15 credit hours in English (ENG) at the 300-400 level plus the capstone course.**
- Any course, unless specified as a repeatable course, may be used only once to fill requirements within a concentration.

#### Professional and Public Writing Concentration

	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>Gateway Course</b>	<b>3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ENG-W 210 Literacy and Public Life</li></ul>	
<b>Concentration Core</b>	<b>15</b>
Culture and Rhetoric (3 cr.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ENG-W 310 Language and the Study of Writing</li><li>• ENG-W 366 Written Englishes: Living Cultural Realities</li><li>• ENG-W 390 Topics in Writing &amp; Literacy <sup>1</sup></li><li>• ENG-W 412 Technology and Literacy</li></ul>	
Style and Editing (3 cr.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ENG-Z 204 Rhetorical Issues in Grammar and Usage</li><li>• ENG-W 262 Style and Voice for Writers</li><li>• ENG-W 365 Theories and Practice of Editing</li></ul>	
Writing Experience (9 cr.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ENG-W 313 The Art of Fact Writing Nonfiction Prose</li><li>• ENG-W 315 Writing for the Web</li><li>• ENG-W 318 Finding Your E-Voice</li><li>• ENG-W 331 Business and Administrative Writing</li><li>• ENG-Z 370 Second Language Writing</li><li>• ENG-W 377 Writing for Social Change</li><li>• ENG-W 390 Topics in Writing &amp; Literacy <sup>1</sup></li><li>• ENG-W 397 Writing Center Theory and Practice</li><li>• ENG-E 398 Internship in English</li><li>• ENG-W 400 Issues in Teaching Writing</li><li>• ENG-W 426 Writing for Popular and Professional Publication (<i>unless taken as capstone</i>)</li></ul>	

<b>Concentration Elective</b>	<b>3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose one additional course from “Culture and Rhetoric,” “Style and Editing,” or “Writing Experience” OR W230 Science Writing, W231 Professional Writing, or W270 Argumentative Writing <i>unless taken to fulfill the School of Liberal Arts Writing Proficiency requirement.</i></li> </ul>	
<b>English Experience</b>	<b>9</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose one from each category below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Film Studies or Literature (3 cr.) 200 - 400 level</li> <li>○ Linguistics (3 cr.) 200 - 400 level</li> <li>○ Creative Writing or any elective outside of concentration core (3 cr.) 200 - 400 level</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Capstone (Must be taken as a senior)</b>	<b>3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ENG-W 426: Writing Nonfiction: Popular and Professional Publication (<i>recommended</i>)</li> <li>• ENG-E 398: Internships in English (<i>with permission from director</i>)</li> <li>• ENG-E 450: Capstone Seminar</li> <li>• ENG-L 440: Senior Seminar in English and American Literature</li> <li>• ENG-L 433: Conversations with Shakespeare</li> </ul>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33 Credit Hours</b>

<sup>1</sup> Depending on topic, ENG-W 390 course might count toward the “Culture and Rhetoric” category or the “Writing Experience” category.