

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY**TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL:**

Proposal for Graduate Concentration in Writing Studies

SPONSOR:

Gail E. Hawisher, Director, Center for Writing Studies

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

In 1992, the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the Center for Writing Studies (CWS) as a Center with the overarching mission to improve undergraduate writing and writing instruction on the UIUC campus. As part of this mission, CWS was authorized to coordinate a cross-disciplinary, campus graduate specialization in Writing Studies. Students would obtain degrees in participating departments (originally English, Speech Communication, Curriculum and Instruction, and DEIL). This graduate specialization was designed to establish a community of intellectually engaged faculty and graduate students in the emerging area of Writing Studies. As of January 2007, CWS has helped place graduates in more than 20 institutions of higher education, and the area remains strong with 35 graduate students currently pursuing the specialization. The majority of faculty and graduate students claim English as their home department.

While the specialization has been extraordinarily successful, there is no acknowledgment of the specialization—essentially a concentration in Writing Studies—on the transcripts of students satisfying the requirements of the program in their home departments. Although the proposed concentration is not radically different from the old specialization, this move formalizes and institutionalizes a program that has for several years achieved national recognition. Thus, I submit this application to request that a concentration in Writing Studies be recognized and approved. Appendix II presents the proposed Requirements for a Concentration in Writing Studies. These requirements are built on the existing courses of the specialization, and this proposal has been approved by the CWS Graduate Programs Committee.

JUSTIFICATION:

The new concentration in Writing Studies will prepare graduate students to become scholars in an emerging, cross-disciplinary field that engages in research and scholarly inquiry on writing, literacy, and rhetorical studies. Students interested in the PhD concentration in Writing Studies may focus on the historical, theoretical, and empirical study of writing in such areas as literacy studies, rhetorical studies, digital literacies, writing pedagogy and assessment, second language writing, writing in the disciplines, and workplace writing, among other areas. Since 1994, graduate students specializing in Writing Studies have secured tenure-line positions at universities that include Vanderbilt; Rutgers University; UC-Santa Barbara; University of Colorado, Boulder; Arizona State University; Auburn University; Northern Illinois University; Florida A&M University; Western Michigan University, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst among them.

There will be no formal admission into the concentration. Students are admitted into graduate study by the Graduate College and their home departments. 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. After students have fulfilled their Writing Studies coursework, given their colloquium presentation on their research, and completed their dissertation, they will receive from the Center for Writing Studies a letter officially stating that they have met the requirements for a concentration in Writing Studies.

Graduate students in the current specialization take two foundational courses to introduce them to the field along with two methodology courses to ready them for their research. The first requirement (ENGL 505/CI 563; ENGL 506/CI 564) provides a historical background in Writing Studies while at the same time assuring knowledge of current issues through the reading and analysis of recent texts that mark the field. The second (ENGL 582/CI 565) introduces students in depth to strands of writing studies research—historical, empirical, and theoretical. In addition, graduate students take two to four courses from across the university that focus on the study of writing but also open up avenues for interdisciplinary inquiry, a key dimension of this area of study. English, Anthropology, Curriculum and Instruction, Library and Information Science, Sociology, Speech Communication, and Art and Design are among the departments from which students have selected courses.

Graduate students also participate in the CWS's distinctive Colloquium series. Six colloquia each year bring four leading scholars in Writing Studies to campus and also feature four UIUC PhD students specializing in Writing Studies (two share one colloquium). The series invites scholars and students to bring work in progress, hence ensuring that cutting edge scholarship is shared. The series plays a major role in helping graduate students forge connections with active scholars in the field, and it helps prepare them for giving extended professional presentations of their own work.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

The Writing Studies specialization has been active for 15 years. We don't expect that a concentration would result in any significant change in the size of the program. Across four colleges (LAS, GSLIS, FAA, and Education), there are currently about 30 faculty affiliated with CWS, including a core group of about 15 faculty whose major specialization is Writing Studies and who carry primary responsibility for the specialization. About 35 graduate students are now pursuing the specialization. Hence, no additional budgetary commitments are anticipated.

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: NA

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

See completed template (a separate attachment)

The Center for Writing Studies (CWS) offers a graduate concentration in Writing Studies. Students interested in pursuing advanced scholarship in Writing Studies may pursue this cross-disciplinary concentration, which focuses on the historical, theoretical, and empirical study of writing in such areas as literacy studies, rhetorical studies, digital literacies, writing pedagogy and assessment, second language writing, writing in the disciplines, and workplace writing. The concentration requires that students take a minimum of 24 hours of graduate-level coursework in

Writing Studies. In order to plan their graduate concentration, 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 CWS Director. For complete information about the program and its offerings, see the program's web site: <http://www.english.uiuc.edu/cws/>.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 15 August 2007

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:

Center Director

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Graduate College approval

Provost Office approval

Appendix I: Faculty affiliated with the Center for Writing Studies

Department of English

Dennis Baron, Professor
Dale Bauer, Professor
Martin Camargo, Professor
Ramona Curry, Associate Professor (also Cinema Studies)
James Frost, Director of Professional Writing
Debra Hawhee, Associate Professor (also Speech Communication)
Gail Hawisher, Professor
Melissa Littlefield, Assistant Professor (also Kinesiology and Community Health)
Robert Markley, Professor
Peter Mortensen, Associate Professor
Robert Dale Parker, Professor
Catherine Prendergast, Associate Professor
Paul Prior, Associate Professor
Spencer Schaffner, Assistant Professor

Library and Information Science

Bertram C. Bruce, Professor
John Unsworth, Professor

Speech Communication

Thomas M. Conley, Professor
Cara Finnegan, Associate Professor
Peggy Miller, Professor (also Psychology)
Ned O'Gorman, Assistant Professor

Art and Design

Joseph Squier, Professor
Nan Goggin, Professor

Curriculum and Instruction

Renee Clift, Professor
Anne Dyson, Professor
Mark Dressman, Associate Professor
Sarah McCarthy, Professor
Arlette Willis, Professor

English as an International Language

Fred Davidson, Associate Professor
Numa Markee, Associate Professor
Randall Sadler, Assistant Professor

Appendix II: Requirements for a Concentration in Writing Studies

Graduate students may elect to pursue a concentration in Writing Studies at the PhD level. In order to plan their graduate concentration, students should identify a faculty advisor in their own department and set up a meeting to discuss their program of concentration with the CWS Director. There is no formal admission into the concentration. In addition to fulfilling the degree requirements of their home department, students need to complete a minimum of 24 credits of graduate work in Writing Studies that include the following requirements:

- Two foundational courses (8 credits) in Writing Studies as approved by the CWS Graduate Programs Committee. English 505/CI 563: Writing Studies I: Social Contexts and Functions of Writing (4 credits) and English 506/CI 564: Writing Studies II: Writing Processes and Their Development (4 credits) currently fulfill this requirement.
- Two methodology courses (8 credits) in Writing Studies as approved by the CWS Graduate Programs Committee. English 582/CI 565: Seminar in Research and Inquiry in Writing Studies (two 4 credit courses for a total of 8 credits) currently fulfills this requirement.
- Two additional elective courses in Writing Studies (for a total of 8 credits) chosen from a list approved by the CWS Graduate Programs Committee or approved individually by the CWS Director.

In addition, students must

- prepare and deliver a lecture based on their research to faculty and students for the CWS Colloquium Series Graduate Research Forum, and
- complete a dissertation that demonstrably focuses on Writing Studies (with a topic approved by the CWS Director) and that is guided by CWS-affiliated faculty serving on the dissertation committee.

In addition to the current core courses (English 505-506/CI 563-564; English 582/CI 565), the following courses illustrate current offerings that the CWS Graduate Programs Committee would consider for approval.

English Department

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| ENGL 482 | Writing and Technology |
| ENGL 583/C&I566 | Topics in Writing Pedagogy and Program Design |
| ENGL 584/C&I569 | Topics in Discourse and Writing Studies |

Speech Communication

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| SPCM 529 | Seminar in Speech Communication |
| SPCM 538 | Seminar in Rhetorical Theory |

English as an International Language

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| EIL 471 | Teaching Composition in the ESL Classroom |
| EIL 587/LING 503 | Seminar in the Teaching of ESL/Seminar in Linguistic Analysis |

Education

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| CI 507 | Feminist and Critical Pedagogies |
| CI 560 | Research and Trends of the Language Arts Curriculum |
| CI 561 | Theory & Practice in Children's Composition |
| CI 562 | Linguistics and the School Curriculum |
| CI 590 | Evaluation of Information Technologies |
| EPSY 542 | Cross-Cultural Studies of Literacy |

Gender and Women's Studies

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| GWS 501 | Feminist Scholarship in the Humanities: Theory & Method |
| GWS 502 | Feminist Scholarship in the Social Sciences: Theory & Research |

Center for Writing Studies

<http://www.english.uiuc.edu/cws/>

Head of the Department: Gail E. Hawisher

Director of Graduate Studies: Gail E. Hawisher

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(217) 333-3251
tbertram@uiuc.edu

Major: Writing Studies

Degrees offered: n/a

Concentration: Writing Studies at the PhD level

Minor: n/a

Graduate Degree Programs

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 commonly hail from the Departments of English, Speech Communication, or departments within the College of Education, but other units may also participate.

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 requirement (ENGL 505/CI 563; ENGL 506/CI 564) 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 (ENGL 582/CI 565) introduces students in depth to strands of writing studies research—historical, empirical, and theoretical. In addition, graduate students take two to four 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, Sociology, Speech Communication, and Art and Design are among the departments from which students commonly select courses.

Admission

There is no formal admission into the concentration. Students are admitted into graduate study by the Graduate College and their home departments. 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.

Degree Requirements

The Writing Studies Concentration requires a minimum of 24 credits of graduate level coursework in Writing Studies.

Minor: n/a

Joint Degree Program: n/a

Off-Campus Program: n/a

Certifications: n/a

Degree Requirements - Doctor of Philosophy

n/a

Graduate Teaching Experience

n/a

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.

Centers, Programs, and Institutes

n/a

Facilities and Resources

CWS is home to the campus's Writing across the Curriculum Program; the Writer's Workshop, a campuswide tutorial facility; and sponsor of an electronic discussion group on writing across the curriculum. It also houses *Computers and Composition*, an international journal that explores issues related to digital media and *Research in the Teaching of English*, a publication of the National Council of Teachers of English.

Financial Aid

Graduate students may receive assistantships as consultants in the Writers' Workshop, as teacher trainers in the Writing Across the Curriculum program, and as research assistants to the faculty of CWS.