

English: Professional Writing

Master of Arts (M.A.)

Southeast's Master of Arts in professional writing helps students to master different types of professional writing, further develop their writing skills, and perfect their critical abilities, including the determination of effective styles and presentations for texts. Professional writing includes rhetorical composition, technical writing, new media, and creative writing. This option allows students to learn in depth about writing theories, rhetorical theory, creative writing and its strategies, and technical production of text in print and online.

Entering students should be able to communicate effectively both orally and in writing. They must be computer-literate and able to use word-processing software such as Microsoft Word.

Professional writing students will learn...

- professional, creative styles of writing and their strategies
- writing and rhetorical theory
- critical thinking, problem-solving, and fact-finding
- in-depth editing skills using the major style manuals
- technical production of text and image in print and online
- the workings of an independent writing business, including grant writing, print production, fact-checking, publicity planning, product review, and document design—all of which are skills that transfer to most businesses

Why should I study professional writing at Southeast?

Specialized writing—technical writing, creative writing, blog-content, and copy writing—has seen national job growth, a growth that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says is expected to continue. Students with a degree in professional writing work as: technical communicators; Web authors, designers, and content managers; publishers; publishing coordinators/publication managers; editors, copyeditors, and proofreaders; science writers; medical writers; information architects; usability specialists/researchers; communication specialists; grant and proposal writers; independent authors; and in other writing- and editing-related roles, such as business copywriting. At Southeast, you study with experienced, knowledgeable writers, editors, critics, and the director of the University Press.

Internship and Employment Opportunities of Recent Graduates/ Graduate Schools and Programs of Recent Graduates

- Assistant editor at a university press
- Intern for a New York software company, writing website content
- Communications and training coordinator for AmerenUE in St. Louis
- Teaching positions in community colleges and high schools
- Acceptances into Ph.D. programs in creative writing
- Advanced position and team lead technical writer
- Humanities specialist for a commercial publisher
- Intern at the National Endowment for the Humanities, writing blog content
- Navy officer, writing administrative speeches and documents
- Published novel writer
- Editor for a trade magazine
- Editor for an advertising firm

Admission Requirements

A student will be admitted to graduate study in English when the following admission requirements are satisfied:

1. The student holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
2. The student has an undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
3. The student has 24 semester hours of undergraduate credit in the field.

English: Professional Writing**Master of Arts (M.A.)**

This is a guide based on the 2014-2015 Graduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on factors such as dual enrollment, remediation, and summer enrollment. Students meet with an academic advisor each semester and use DegreeWorks to monitor their progress.

CURRICULUM CHECKLIST**English: Professional Writing Option – 36 Hours**

- EN 601 Research (3)
 EN 623 Visual Rhetoric (3)
 EN 624 Editing and Research in Professional Writing (3)
 EN 645 Advanced Publishing (3)
 Choose Two Writing Courses – 6 hours
 EN 550 Style in Writing (3)
 EN 670 Advanced Creative Writing: Poetry (may be repeated once) (3)
 EN 678 Advanced Creative Writing: Fiction (may be repeated once) (3)
 EN 572 Creative Non-Fiction (3)
 Choose Literature Courses – 6 hours
 LI510 Literature and the Bible (3)
 LI542 Literature of the Young Adult (3)
 LI560 Chaucer (3)
 LI565 Southern Literature (3)
 LI568 Nineteenth Century American Novel (3)
 LI570 Twentieth Century American Novel (3)
 LI571 Contemporary American Poetry (3)
 LI576 American Fiction of the 21st Century (3)
 LI577 Studies in Early English Literature (3)
 LI578 Studies in Later English Literature (3)
 LI582 Topics in Literature (3)
 LI587 Women and Madness (3)
 LI621 Cross-Cultural American Voices (3)
 LI665 Shakespeare (3)
 LI674 Studies in Modern American Literature (3)
 LI676 Early Twentieth-Century British Literature (3)
 Choose one course in Theory or Linguistics – 3 hours
 EN535 Rhetorical Theory and Written Discourse (3)
 EN686 Sociolinguistics (3)
 LI605 Contemporary Anglophone Literature/Contemporary Theory (3)
 LI658 Literary Criticism (3)
 UI500 History of the English Language (3)
 UI501 Principles of Language (3)
 Electives – 9 hours**
 Thesis (maximum 3 credit hours):
 EN694 Thesis (3)
 EN696 Thesis (2)
 EN697 Thesis (1)
 Teaching Practicum (maximum 3 credit hours):
 EN615 Practicum in Teaching Creative Writing (3)
 LI615 Practicum in Teaching Literature (3)
 Independent Study (maximum 3 credit hours):
 LI679 Independent Study in English (1)
 LI680 Independent Study in English (2)
 LI681 Independent Study in English (3)
 Additional EN 5xx/6xx Level Writing Course:
 EN550 Style in Writing (3)
 EN670 Advanced Creative Writing: Poetry (3)
 EN678 Advanced Creative Writing: Fiction (3)
 EN572 Creative Non-Fiction (3)
 Additional LI 5xx/6xx Level Literature Course:
 LI510 Literature and the Bible (3)
 LI542 Literature of the Young Adult (3)
 LI560 Chaucer (3)
 LI565 Southern Literature (3)
 LI568 Nineteenth Century American Novel (3)
 LI570 Twentieth Century American Novel (3)

Courses Continued...

- LI571 Contemporary American Poetry (3)
 LI576 American Fiction of the 21st Century (3)
 LI577 Studies in Early English Literature (3)
 LI578 Studies in Later English Literature (3)
 LI582 Topics in Literature (3)
 LI587 Women and Madness (3)
 LI621 Cross-Cultural American Voices (3)
 LI665 Shakespeare (3)
 LI674 Studies in Modern American Literature (3)
 LI676 Early Twentieth-Century British Literature (3)

Additional 5xx/6xx Level Theory or Linguistics Course:
 EN535 Rhetorical Theory and Written Discourse (3)
 EN686 Sociolinguistics (3)

**Students may take up to three hours from EN694-697, up to three hours from LI679-681, and cannot take both EN615 and LI615 for elective credit.

Recommended Sequence of Required Course Work

Sample Two-Year Plan (See department course rotation list for complete course availability.)

First Year, Fall Semester

- EN624 Editing and Research in Professional Writing (3)
 EN678 Advanced Creative Writing: Fiction (3)
 LI621 Cross-Cultural American Voices (3)

First Year, Spring Semester

- EN601 Research (3)
 EN535 Rhetorical Theory and Written Discourse (3)
 LI576 American Fiction of the 21st Century (3)

Second Year, Fall Semester

- EN645 Advanced Publishing (3)
 LI571 Contemporary American Poetry (3)
 EN572 Creative Non Fiction (3)

Second Year, Spring Semester

- EN623 Visual Rhetoric (3)
 EN670 Advanced Creative Writing: Poetry (3)
 EN615 Teaching Practicum in Writing (3)

Degree Requirements

- All students must complete their choice of a thesis, a graduate paper plus a comprehensive exam, or a capstone project.
- No course taken as part of an undergraduate degree will fulfill any Master of Arts requirement.
- EN694 Thesis may be taken only for 3 credit hours (for those opting to write a thesis).
- At least 18 hours must be at the 600 level.
- No course fulfills more than one requirement.