**The Rhetoric and Media Studies Major**

The Rhetoric and Media Studies (RMS) major requires 12 courses: at least 5 at the lower division and at least 6 at the upper division. The RMS major allows for 3 electives, 2 of which must be 100-level courses. An English course may be used only once to fulfill a particular major requirement. Transfer students majoring in RMS must take at least 6 courses in English at Drake. Students with advanced placement (A.P.) will be credited one lower-level elective toward the major.

**The Lower Division Core (at least 5 courses)**

All English, RMS, and Writing majors will be required to take five lower-division courses: a “Common Core.” These courses focus on historical and topical areas deemed essential to the responsible study of English, RMS, and Writing and are meant to foster a shared sense of disciplinary identity and to encourage department-wide dialogue, discussion, and debate about issues of significance to students and scholars of English language and media. There are slight differences between the specific requirements of RMS and the other majors.

**Gateway(2 courses)**

## Gateway courses introduce students to critical methods as well as current and historical issues, questions, and topics central to the study of literature and writing.

**ENG 37 and ENG 39**

**Media Studies (1 course)**

This requirement is specific to the RMS major. Courses in this category focus students' attention on what it means to be producers and consumers of media. This category introduces students to vocabulary used in the field of media studies. Courses might form on a particular media form, such as TV, or they might look at a variety of forms.

**ANY ENG course numbered 21-29**

**History and Traditions (1 course)**

Courses in this category focus students’ attention on one or several of a number of questions related to the history of English studies and the traditions it examines. This category includes a.) courses whose primary aim is to introduce students to critical methods for situating literary, filmic, and cultural interpretations within the historical and cultural contexts of their creation, dissemination, reproduction and reception; b.) courses whose primary aim is to explore the historical development of a particular form, topic, or critical method; and c.) courses that examine historically distant texts in order to provide historical understanding or insights into contemporary developments in culture, literary genre, and the practices of writing, reading, and criticism.

## **Any ENG course numbered 40-59**

**Culture and Identity (1 course)**

Courses in this category focus students’ attention on the way texts represent, reflect, construct, and engage with culture and, in doing so, enact and reflect on individual and group identities. This category includes courses that critically examine—through reading or writing or both—representations of markers of cultural and individual identity, critical responses to those representations, and the way such representations articulate to real-world questions of power and value.

## **Any ENG course numbered 60-79**

In addition to the 5 Common Core courses, students majoring in RMS may take up to 1 lower-division elective, including an FYS taught by a member of the English faculty, which will count toward the 12-course total required for the major.

Gateway courses must be taken in the Drake University English Department. Otherwise, college courses transferred with Drake course-number equivalents will be allowed to count toward the Common Core. Unnumbered English transfer credits or AP credits may count toward the lower-division electives only.

**The Upper Division (at least 6 courses)**

Upper division courses are open to students with 30 or more college credits at the time of registration (not including courses in progress). A single course (for instance, a travel seminar) may not count for more than 1 course toward the Upper Division Rhetoric and Media Studies Core requirements, regardless of the number of credits the course is worth. Credits in excess of three earned in a particular course *may* count toward electives in fulfillment of the total courses required by the major. No more than one course taken outside the department may count toward a student’s upper division RMS core.

**Upper Division RMS Core (3 courses)**

Upper division courses are open to students with 30 or more college credits at the time of registration (not including courses in progress). All majors must take 3 upper division writing core courses, chosen from among the list below. Courses in this category focus on the theory and practice of representation, communication, rhetoric, and/or media studies.

**ENG 105, 108, 121, 126, 127, 129, 137, 138, 167, 168, 173, 174**

**Electives (3 courses)**

## At least two courses numbered ENG 100 and higher and up to one course numbered ENG 001-ENG 99. Courses may be taken outside the department with departmental approval. Up to six individual experience credits (internship, independent study, portfolio) may be counted as electives.

**Capstone (1 course)**

A capstone is required for RMS majors. Students must have completed ENG 37 and ENG 39 and have junior or senior standing to register for the capstone. With permission from the professor and the department chair, a student may take a capstone to fulfill an upper-division rhetoric and media studies core requirement or as an elective.

## ENG 195

**Program of Study for RMS Minor**

The RMS minor requires a minimum of six courses in English, including ENG 37 and ENG 39, at least one courses numbered 21-29 and one of the Upper Division RMS courses listed above. In addition, two electives are required. At least two courses in the minor must be at the 100-level. An English faculty advisor is required.