The New Writing Major (Fall 2013 and after)

The Writing major requires 36 credits: 18 at the lower division and 18 at the upper division. The Writing major allows for 6 credits of electives that must be 100-level courses. At least 18 credits of the required 36 must be 100-level courses. An English course may be used only once to fulfill a particular major requirement. (ENG 54, for instance, may fulfill either Genres or Historicity, but not both.) Transfer students majoring in Writing must take at least 18 hours of English at Drake.

The Lower Division Core (18 credits)
All majors will be required to take fifteen lower-division credits comprised by “The Common Core.” These credits are taken in historical and topical areas deemed essential to the responsible study of English or Writing (or both) 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.

Gateway (6 credits)
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 38 and ENG 39

History and Traditions (3 credits)
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 (3 credits)
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
Writing: Topics and Genres (6 credits)
Courses in this category engage students in the study of thematic and formal traditions through writing. This category includes a.) courses that introduce students to particular forms of writing (poetry, fiction, drama, and criticism); b.) courses that explore ways of using writing to pose and explore particular kinds of questions (about class, gender, sexuality, race, etc.); and c.) courses that train students in using writing within particular institutional contexts (professional, public, and academic). These courses are characterized by an emphasis on drafting and revision and on the in-class examination of student-generated writing.

Any two ENG courses numbered 80-99

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.

The Upper Division (18 credits)
- 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 3-credits toward the upper-division English track 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 credits required by the major. No more than three credits taken outside the department may count toward a student’s upper-division Writing major requirements.

Upper-Division Writing Credits (9 Credits)
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 9 upper-division writing credits, chosen from among the list below. Students majoring in writing will engage in the sustained practice of writing and will think critically about that practice through theoretical, aesthetic, and personal reflection. Courses in this category focus on the theory and practice of writing of all kinds.

ENG 109, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 171, 172

Electives (6 credits)
At least six credits earned in courses numbered ENG 100 and higher. 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 (3 credits)
A 3-credit capstone is required Writing majors. (When capstones are offered, they will be cross-listed with at least one track-designating Topics course so that students enrolling in that course may count it toward a track specialization in the English
major instead of as a capstone, if they wish. In other words, a capstone may not fulfill more than one upper-division category (elective, requirement, capstone). Students must have completed ENG 38 and ENG 39 and have junior or senior standing to register for the capstone.

ENG 195 or 196

Track-Specific Courses

Up to 3 credits taken outside the department may, with department approval, count toward fulfillment of a track. A single course may not count toward the fulfillment of more than one track for students who elect to declare two tracks.

History and Traditions
ENG 104, 124, 126, 130, 131, 132, 133, 140, 142, 143, 146, 150, 152, 166, 169

Theory and Criticism
ENG 102, 104, 109, 111, 112, 123, 126, 130, 141, 147, 149, 155, 156, 158, 163, 164, 165, 166, 168, 169, 171, 172 (1 credit), 173, 174.

Film, Drama, and New Media
ENG 126, 127, 128, 129, 140

Culture and Identity
ENG 125, 135, 136, 141, 142, 143, 146, 147, 149, 152, 155, 156, 158, 163, 164, 165, 168

Program of study for minor: Minimum of 18 credit hours in English, including ENG 38 and ENG 39, and at least six credit hours in courses numbered above 100. An English faculty advisor is required.