

The Writing Major (Fall 2013 and after)

The Writing major requires 12 courses: at least 5 at the lower division and at least 6 at the upper division. The Writing 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 Writing 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 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 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 (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 38 and ENG 39

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

Writing: Topics and Genres (1 course)

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 ENG course numbered 80-99

In addition to the 5 Common Core courses, students majoring in Writing 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 Writing 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 writing core.

Upper Division Writing 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. 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, 117, 118, 119, 120, 171, 172 (1 credit)

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 Writing majors. Students must have completed ENG 38 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 writing core requirement or as an elective.

ENG 195 or 196

Program of Study for Writing Minor

The Writing minor requires a minimum of six courses in English, including ENG 38 and ENG 39, and at least two courses numbered above 100 chosen from this list (109, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 171, 174, 3-credit 198). An English faculty advisor is required.

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