WRITING AND RHETORIC MINOR

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WHAT IS WRITING AND RHETORIC?

Writing and Rhetoric studies how communication works - how language shapes meaning, reaches audiences, and persuades. Students explore written, oral, and digital communication as both a practice and a subject of inquiry, developing capabilities that transfer across disciplines and careers.

HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM ENGLISH, CREATIVE WRITING, OR JOURNALISM?

Rather than focusing primarily on literature, creative work, or reporting, these courses investigate communication itself: rhetorical choices, genres, audiences, writing processes, and technologies (including generative AI). Students explore the cultural, social, and professional contexts around communication and media.

WHAT WILL I DO IN WRITING AND RHETORIC COURSES?

Expand your communication capacities across genres and formats; strengthen your writing process and voice; analyze arguments and communication technologies; and investigate questions about writing through research methods such as rhetorical analysis, surveys, case studies, or archival research. You will also engage with diverse perspectives and audiences.

MINOR AT A GLANCE

- **Prerequisite: Writing 120**
- **5 courses for the minor**
- **At least 1: Writing 202S *or* Writing 203S**
- **At least 3 additional Writing and Rhetoric courses level 200 and above**
- **Up to 1 approved course from another department may count**

WHY IS THE WRITING AND RHETORIC MINOR VALUABLE NO MATTER YOUR MAJOR?

Strong communication, interpersonal, and critical thinking capacities are essential in every field. Whether you're studying engineering, biology, economics, public policy, or the humanities, a Writing and Rhetoric minor helps you communicate complex ideas clearly, think critically, and adapt your message to different audiences. You'll learn to analyze information, craft persuasive arguments, and communicate effectively across genres and contexts—skills that will strengthen your academic work, prepare you for a wide range of careers, and help you stand out in any profession.

***Important**: WR code ≠ Writing and Rhetoric course. WR-coded courses are offered across Duke and may satisfy the university WR curricular requirement. Writing and Rhetoric courses are offered by the Writing and Rhetoric Program; many, but not all, also carry WR codes.*

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DR. HANNAH DAVIS, DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
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