



UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

Michael K. Young
President

July 29, 2014

Vice Chancellor J.W. Harrington
University of Washington, Tacoma
Box 358430

Dear J.W.:

Based upon the recommendations of the Faculty Council on Academic Policy, the Faculty Assembly has recommended approval of the revised program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Writing Studies. A copy of the change is attached.

I am writing to inform you that the Office of Academic Affairs is authorized to specify these requirements beginning spring quarter 2015.

The new requirements should be incorporated in printed statements and in individual department websites as soon as possible. The *General Catalog* website will be updated accordingly by the Registrar's Office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael K. Young".

Michael K. Young
President

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Bonnie Becker (with enclosure)
Mr. Robert Corbett (with enclosure)
Ms. Virjean Edwards (with enclosure)



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

CREATING AND CHANGING UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

JUN 18 2014

OFFICE USE ONLY

Control #

TWRT-20140421

After college/school/campus review, send a signed original and 1 copy to the Curriculum Office/FCAS, Box 355850.

For information about when and how to use this form: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwcr/1503instructions.pdf>

College/Campus	Tacoma	Department/Unit	IAS	Date	4/21/14
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New Programs

- ☐ Leading to a Bachelor of _____ in _____ degree.
☐ Leading to a Bachelor of _____ degree with a major in _____
☐ Leading to a _____ within the existing major in _____
☐ Leading to a minor in _____

Changes to Existing Programs

- ☐ New Admission Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____
☐ Revised Admission Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____
☒ Revised Program Requirements for the Major in **Writing Studies** within the Bachelor of **Arts**
☐ Revised Requirements for the Option in _____ within the major in _____
☐ Revised Requirements for the Minor in _____

Other Changes

- ☐ Change name of program from _____ to _____
☐ Change delivery method or location of program.
☐ New or Revised Continuation Policy for _____
☐ New Honors Requirements for _____
☐ Eliminate program in _____

Proposed Effective Date: **Quarter:** ☐ Autumn ☐ Winter ☒ Spring ☐ Summer **Year: 20 15**

Contact Person: Bonnie Becker/Emma Rose

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Email: bjbecker@u.washington.edu

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EXPLANATION OF AND RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE

For new program, please include any relevant supporting documentation such as student learning outcomes, projected enrollments, letters of support and departmental handouts. (Use additional pages if necessary).

Adding a Technical Communication track to the existing Writing Studies major provides students with an opportunity to specialize in writing, designing and communicating information that focuses on technical and scientific topics. This addition is a complement to the existing Creative Writing Track in Writing Studies.

Technical Communication is defined as the process of communicating complex information for a variety of audiences. According to the Society for Technical Communication, people who work in the field "research and create information about technical processes or products directed to a targeted audience through various forms of media" (<http://www.stc.org>). Technical communication also contributes to the growing field of user experience, which encompasses the study of the relationship between people and the technologies they use. User experience professionals design information and communication technologies and also study how well these artifacts help people accomplish their goals.

The prospect for students graduating from this program is strong due to the high need for technical communicators and user experience professionals in the Puget Sound region, especially in the growing high tech industries. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that over the next 10 years there will be an increased growth in demand for careers in technical communication (10-12%).

In addition to industry demand, many current students have expressed a strong interest in pursuing the Technical Communication track. Current courses in Technical Communication are in demand and popular with students. For example, the foundation course TWRT 291 Technical Communication in the Workplace is offered 6-7 times a year with most sections at capacity. Also, other majors such as Information Technology and Systems in the Institute of Technology are planning to include the TWRT 291 as a requirement for the major. Another new course in Technical Communication, TWRT 350 User Centered Design, was offered for the first time in Winter 2014 and was at capacity. The course was enthusiastically received by students.

The Writing Studies major has the following student learning outcomes for both Technical Communication and Creative Writing.

As a student in Writing Studies major, you are expected to:

- Write in multiple genres for diverse audiences.
- Apply writing and communication design skills in multiple contexts and for a range of purposes.
- Develop an effective and self-aware writing process from invention to production.
- Collaborate effectively in writing and information design.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of writing in creating knowledge through artistic expression, critical inquiry, and applied research.
- Develop the ability to learn, adapt, and use technologies and new media essential to their lives and careers.

Students completing the Technical Communication track in Writing Studies are well positioned for careers in technical writing, user experience, usability, and other fields where communicating scientific and technical topics plays a central role. Graduates will be prepared to work across a variety of industries, for governments, and for non-profits, or go to graduate schools for advanced degrees in rhetoric and technical communication, information school, and other technology-related fields.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED

List all departments/units/ or co-accredited programs affected by your new program or changes to your existing program and acquire the signature of the chair/director of each department/unit listed. Attach additional page(s) if necessary. *See online instructions.

Department/Unit: Institute of Technology (UWT)	Chair/Program Director: Robert Friedman (see attached letter of support)	Date:
Department/Unit:	Chair/Program Director	Date:

CATALOG COPY

Catalog Copy as currently written. Include only sections/paragraphs that would be changed if your request is approved. Please cross out or otherwise highlight any deletions.

Major in Writing Studies

Students in the Writing Studies major learn to write effectively in a range of genres, and to think critically and creatively. Writing Studies prepares students to be verbally and visually literate in a manner that encourages their growth as learners, citizens, and professionals. Students also receive a well-rounded liberal arts education in the sciences and the humanities. The major in Writing Studies provides students with solid skills for seeking employment involving writing, including careers in education, publishing, public relations, grant writing, and marketing. ~~Currently there is a track in creative writing and in the future the major will expand to include other tracks.~~

Creative Writing Track

The creative writing track offers the opportunity for focused study of literary and popular forms of creative writing with supportive faculty who publish in these genres, and provides a strong base for students wishing to pursue a Master of Fine Arts. Our creative writing track takes a distinctive interdisciplinary approach to creative writing: students choose classes in more than one genre (poetry, nonfiction, and fiction), a wide-range of literature courses from multiple perspectives, as well as professional/technical writing courses that can prepare them for writing jobs in a variety of fields. In addition, the creative writing track reflects the curricular guidelines of the Association of Writing Programs (AWP), the national professional organization in creative writing. Students can gain professional experience as editors and writers of Tahoma West, UW Tacoma's student-run literary and arts magazine, as well as the school newspaper, The Ledger. Students also have opportunities to engage in the vibrant literary community of the Puget Sound and are encouraged to apply for internships at local arts and publishing organizations.

Student learning outcomes

As a student in the Creative Writing track within the Writing Studies major, you are expected to:

- ~~Write effectively in a range of genres.~~
- ~~Think critically and creatively.~~
- ~~Be verbally and visually literate in a manner that encourages your growth as learners, citizens and professionals.~~
- ~~Acquire a well-rounded liberal arts education in the sciences and the humanities.~~
- ~~Acquire solid skills for seeking employment involving writing, including careers in education, publishing, public relations, grant writing and marketing.~~
- ~~Acquire a strong base with which to pursue a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing~~
- ~~Be prepared for writing jobs in a variety of fields.~~
- ~~Use technology integral to a writing profession.~~

Prerequisites for the Writing Studies Major (10 credits)

~~Students must earn credit in the following courses, each with a minimum of a 2.0 grade.~~

~~TCORE 101 or TWRT 112 Introduction to Academic Writing~~

~~TWRT 211 Academic Research and Argument~~

PROPOSED CATALOG COPY

Reflecting requested changes (Include exact wording as you wish it to be shown in the printed catalog. Please underline or otherwise highlight any additions. If needed, attach a separate, expanded version of the changes that might appear in department publications).

Please note: all copy will be edited to reflect uniform style in the General Catalog.

Major in Writing Studies

Students in the Writing Studies major **want to impact the world through compelling writing, whether it be in a creative, technical, or professional context.** **Students** learn to write effectively in a range of genres, for a variety of purposes and to think critically and creatively. Writing Studies prepares students to be verbally and visually literate in a manner that encourages their growth as learners, citizens, and professionals. Students also receive a well-rounded liberal arts education in the sciences and the humanities. The major in Writing Studies provides students with solid skills for seeking employment involving writing **and information design**, including careers in **technical and professional writing, user experience, education, publishing, public relations, grant writing, and marketing.** **Students can choose to specialize in Creative Writing or Technical Communication.**

Student learning outcomes

As a student in Writing Studies major, you are expected to:

- **Write in multiple genres for diverse audiences.**
- **Apply writing and communication design skills in multiple contexts and for a range of purposes.**
- **Develop an effective and self-aware writing process from invention to production.**
- **Collaborate effectively in writing and information design.**
- **Demonstrate an understanding of the role of writing in creating knowledge through artistic expression, critical inquiry, and applied research.**
- **Develop the ability to learn, adapt, and use technologies and new media essential to their lives and careers.**

Prerequisites for the Writing Studies Major (10 credits)

Students wishing to declare the Writing Studies major must complete the following courses with a minimum grade of 2.0.

TCORE 101 or TWRT 112 Introduction to Academic Writing

TWRT 211 Academic Research and Argument

Creative Writing Track

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List D: Technical/Professional Communication (15 credits). Students choose three courses from the following list:

TWRT 291 Technical Communication in the Workplace (5 credits)

Plus 10 credits from the following list:

TCOM 387 Writing for Public Relations

TCOM 486 Feature Writing

TWRT 330 Visual and Written Rhetoric

TWRT 331 Writing in the Natural Sciences

TWRT 365 Literary Editing and Publishing

TWRT 3xx Writing in New Media

TWRT 431 Writing Studies: Writing for Social Change

TWRT 440 Cross-Cultural Communication Design

TWRT 464 Teaching Writing

TWRT 4xx Advanced Visual Rhetoric (to be developed)

TWRT 4xx Internship (to be developed)

Technical Communication Track

In the technical communication track, students learn to communicate complex information in a way that is concise, usable, and compelling. Coursework in the technical communication track is grounded in the user-centered design process. Students learn how to identify the needs of an audience, design through an iterative process and make changes based on applied research. Students take a variety of courses on writing, research and technical topics. Courses emphasize real world design projects and students develop skills in collaborative problem solving and creativity. Students completing the Technical Communication track are well positioned for careers in technical and professional writing, user experience, usability, and other fields where communicating scientific and technical topics plays a central role, across a variety of industries, for governments, and for non-profits. Students are encouraged to gain professional experience by completing internships and working with community partners.

List A: Technical Communication Foundation (10 Credits)

- TWRT 291 Technical Communication in the Workplace

Choose one:

- TCOM 320 Principles of Web Design
- TWRT 350 Principles of User-Centered Design

List B: Technical Communication Core (20 credits)

- TCOM 220 Social media
- TCOM 320 Principles of Web Design*
- TWRT 330 Visual and Written Rhetoric
- TWRT 331 Writing in the Natural Sciences
- TWRT 350 Principles of User-Centered Design*
- TCOM 350 Editing and Design for Print Media
- TWRT 355 Usability testing and research
- TWRT 440 Cross-Cultural Communication Design
- TWRT 450 Accessible design
- TCOM 420 Advanced Web Design
- TWRT 490 Writing Studies Internship

*** These courses can only be taken for credit once, either as part of List A or List B.**

List C: Breadth in creative, scientific and technical topics

- TWRT Any 200-300-400 in Creative Writing
- TCOM 275 Writing, Reporting, and Editing for the Mass Media
- TCOM 348 Non-fiction Writing for Television
- TCOM 349 News Writing
- TCOM 387 Writing for Public Relations
- TCOM 482 Investigative Reporting
- TCOM 484 Opinion Writing for Mass Media
- TCOM 486 Feature Writing for Print Media
- T INST 207 Living and Working in a Virtual World
- T INST 312 Computer Networks and the Internet
- T INST 401 Technology in the Service of Society
- T INST 475 Entrepreneurship in Computing and Software Systems
- TCSS 142 Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming
- T INFO 210 Foundations of Information Management
- T INFO 220 Foundations of Human Computer Interaction for Information Technology and Systems
- T INFO 230 Web design and programming
- T INFO 310 Foundations of Information Assurance
- T INFO 370 Managing Technical Teams
- TEST 211 Women in Science
- TEST 213 History and Science of Space Exploration
- TEST 221 Environmental History: Water
- TEST 295 Valuing Ecosystems Services and Natural Capital
- TEST 332 A Natural History of Garbage
- TEST 333 Environmental Policy Application and Compliance
- TEST 335 Environmental Impact Analysis
- TESC 202 Plant Biology and Ecology
- TESC 201 The Science of Environmental Sustainability
- TESC 232 Issues in Biological Conservation
- TESC 236 Sustainable Agriculture
- TESC 240 Human Biology and Environmental Interactions
- TESC 241 Oceanography
- TESC 243 Geography of the Physical Environment
- TESC 341 Climate Change

APPROVALS

Chair/Program Director:

William M. H.

Date: 5/15/14

College/School/Campus Curriculum Committee:

John Will

Date: 6/12/14

Dean/Vice Chancellor:

Barry McDonald

Date: 6/12/14

Faculty Council on Academic Standards/ General Faculty Organization/Faculty Assembly Chair:

Date:

POST TRI-CAMPUS APPROVAL (when needed)

Faculty Council on Academic Standards/ General Faculty Organization/Faculty Assembly Chair:

Date: