Ph.D. in English Rhetoric and Composition

The PhD program in Rhetoric and Composition prepares graduates for careers as writing specialists in higher education, business, industry, and government. In higher education, they conduct research into theories of writing development, use, and pedagogy. In business, industry, and government, they apply higher-level research, thinking, and writing skills to enhance communication. The focus of the program is on cultural and digital rhetorics and community engagement.

Students can enter the program with a bachelor’s degree in English or with a master’s degree in Rhetoric and Composition or a related field. They will complete a minimum of 45-51 credit hours beyond the MA, including core courses that cover rhetorical history, composition studies, cultural rhetorics and digital studies; concentration courses in topics such as technical communication, cultural studies, and literacy studies; and an internship course in a community literacy setting. A dissertation involving extended research is required. Students have opportunities to extend their knowledge of Rhetoric and Composition by taking courses in other disciplines such as Literature, Communications, Languages and Linguistics, and Teacher Education.

Admission Requirements

Students will be considered for admission after completion of a BA in English or an MA in English with a focus in Rhetoric and Composition; Rhetoric and Writing Studies; or Professional Writing and Rhetoric. Students with an MA in Literature, an MAT in English, an MFA in Creative Writing, or an MA in a related field (such as Communication or Linguistics) will also be considered.

Students entering the program with a BA will enroll in the master’s program in Rhetoric and Writing Studies offered by the English Department. They will be required to complete the six-hour thesis requirement for the MA degree. Upon finishing this degree, they will complete the additional work required in the PhD program.

To be considered for admission, all applicants to the PhD program must meet the minimum requirements for admission described in this catalog. Students (including UTEP graduates) will be required to submit:

1. Official transcripts of all previous academic work.
2. Letters of recommendation from at least three faculty members and/or members of the professional community with whom they have worked.
3. A description of their educational objectives.
4. A description of their theoretical and pedagogical approaches to teaching writing.
5. Two writing samples: a research paper and another of their choice, such as a digital project.
6. Applicants from countries where English is not the first language are required to demonstrate English proficiency. Please consult the graduate school (http://catalog.utep.edu/admissions/graduate/graduate-student/) website for required scores.

Applicants will be evaluated according to their previous academic record, the strength of their letters of recommendation, and the quality and appropriateness of their writing samples. Another key criterion will be the compatibility between students’ interests and expectations and the objectives of the PhD program.

Maximum Time to Completion

Students accepted into the PhD program in Rhetoric and Composition must complete all requirements for the degree within eight (8) years.

Language Requirement

All students must demonstrate a reading knowledge of a language other than English sufficient to conduct research using primary and secondary sources. The PhD program’s emphasis on intercultural writing on the U.S.-Mexican border will lead many students to elect Spanish to satisfy this requirement.

Qualifying Exams

Students will take qualifying exams after successful completion of the language requirement and all courses with the exception of RWS 6395 and the dissertation. A copy of the dissertation in PDF or Word electronic format must be submitted to the Graduate School for format check prior to the scheduled defense date. The dissertation, including an abstract not to exceed 350 words, must be prepared according to the Graduate School’s thesis and dissertation guidelines available at the Graduate School Web site. The student will receive email confirmation from the Graduate School after the format has been approved. The final Graduate School-approved dissertation must be submitted to the Graduate School in PDF electronic format by the deadline as published in the Class Schedule, along with a hard copy of the signature page with original signatures of the dissertation committee members. Information on submission procedures can be found on the Graduate School website. The signature page must be included in the PDF file but it should not be signed.

Information for All Degrees/Concentrations

1. Undergraduate Credit Hours: Generally, undergraduate credit hours cannot be used to satisfy graduate requirements. Exceptions must be approved by the Graduate Advisor in the English Department and the Graduate School and in no cases are to exceed six (6) hours. With the prior approval of the Graduate Advisor and the Graduate School, the following undergraduate course can be taken for graduate credit: ENGL 4390.
2. **Foreign Students**: Foreign students must supply a satisfactory grade in a special proficiency test in the English language before being allowed to register. (Students should write to Graduate Advisor, Department of English, for details).

3. **Graduate Advising**: All students upon entering the graduate program will outline a tentative degree plan with their Graduate Advisor. Students who have deficiencies in their undergraduate preparation are encouraged to supplement their graduate courses with undergraduate courses (no graduate credit).

4. **Programs of Study**: During the first semester of graduate study, all students must submit to the Graduate School for approval of a Preliminary Program of Study signed by their Graduate Advisor. The Preliminary Program of Study should show the courses required by the department that the student must complete prior to graduation. During the final semester of graduate study, each student must submit to the Graduate School for approval a Final Program of Study signed by their Graduate Advisor. The Final Program of Study should show the courses taken and the courses required by the department that the student will complete during his or her last semester of graduate study. Programs that show an incomplete grade or a GPA below 3.0 cannot be approved.

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## Degree Plan

**Required Credits: 45**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RWS 6309</td>
<td>Intro to Rhet &amp; Writ Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RWS 6346</td>
<td>Composition Theory &amp; Pedagogy</td>
<td>3</td>
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**PhD in Rhetoric & Composition Prerequisites (All courses require a grade of C or better)**

**Required Courses:**

- RWS 6310: Rhetorical History I
- RWS 6311: Rhetorical History II
- RWS 6319: Composition Studies
- RWS 6320: Advanced Critical Theory
- RWS 6321: Rhetoric and Technology

**Concentration:**

Select three courses from the following: ¹

- ENGL 5301: British Literature to 1485
- ENGL 5302: British Literature 1485-1660
- ENGL 5303: British Literature 1660-1832
- ENGL 5304: British Lit 1832-Present
- ENGL 5305: Am. Lit: Exploration to 1800
- ENGL 5306: American Literature 1800-1865
- ENGL 5307: American Literature 1865-1945
- ENGL 5308: American Lit 1945-Present
- ENGL 5320: Critical Theory and Practice
- ENGL 5321: Literature of the Americas
- ENGL 5322: Literature and Culture
- ENGL 5323: Multi-Cult Lit: Theory & Pract
- ENGL 5324: Multi-Cult Lit: Special Topics
- ENGL 5340: Literature for Youth
- ENGL 5341: Eng Studies in the Borderlands
- ENGL 5342: Digital Lit and the Lang Arts
- ENGL 5344: Integrated Teaching Methods
- ENGL 5345: Writing to Learn
- ENGL 5380: Special Topics in English Ed
- RWS 6306
- RWS 6311: Rhetorical History II
- RWS 6322: Rhetorical Theory

**Graduate Seminar:**

- RWS 6130: Graduate Seminar in Rhetoric (Complete three semesters)
Internship:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RWS 6318</td>
<td>Community Literacy Internship</td>
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Course currently in degree plan, but no longer offered. Please see advisor for substitution.

Other Electives:

Select three hours from the following:  

1. ENGL 5197 Master of Arts Research Paper  
2. ENGL 5300 Approach-Methods & Bibliog.  
3. ENGL 5301 British Literature to 1485  
4. ENGL 5302 British Literature 1485-1660  
5. ENGL 5303 British Literature 1660-1832  
6. ENGL 5304 British Lit 1832-Present  
7. ENGL 5305 Am. Lit: Exploration to 1800  
8. ENGL 5306 American Literature 1800-1865  
9. ENGL 5307 American Literature 1865-1945  
10. ENGL 5308 American Lit 1945-Present  
11. ENGL 5319 English Historical Linguistics  
12. ENGL 5320 Critical Theory and Practice  
13. ENGL 5321 Literature of the Americas  
14. ENGL 5322 Literature and Culture  
15. ENGL 5323 Multi-Cult Lit: Theory & Pract  
16. ENGL 5324 Multi-Cult Lit: Special Topics  
17. ENGL 5325 Genre: Theory and Practice  
18. ENGL 5327 Var Topics-Contemp Literature  
19. ENGL 5339 Intro to Secondary English  
20. ENGL 5340 Literature for Youth  
21. ENGL 5341 Eng Studies in the Borderlands  
22. ENGL 5342 Digital Lit and the Lang Arts  
23. ENGL 5344 Integrated Teaching Methods  
24. ENGL 5345 Writing to Learn  
25. ENGL 5380 Special Topics in English Ed  
26. ENGL 5390 Directed Studies  
27. ENGL 5391 M.A. Written Examination  
28. ENGL 5392 Master of Arts Research Paper  
29. ENGL 5393 Practicum in English Education  
30. ENGL 5394 M.A.T. Written Examination  
31. ENGL 5397 Writing Practicum  
32. RWS 5309 Intro to Rhetoric & Writing St  
33. RWS 5311 Persuasion and Argument  
34. RWS 5312 Technical Writing  
35. RWS 5313 Grant Writing  
36. RWS 5314 Multimodal Composing  
37. RWS 5315 Prof Writing & Rhetoric  
38. RWS 5316 Graduate Writing Workshop  
39. RWS 5318 Community Literacy Internship  
40. RWS 5328 Special Topics in RWS  
41. RWS 5346 Composition Theory & Pedagogy  
42. RWS 6130 Graduate Seminar in Rhetoric  
43. RWS 6322 Rhetorical Theory  
44. RWS 6395 Dissertation Preparation

Research Courses:

Complete four courses from the following:  

1. RWS 6395 Dissertation Preparation  
2. RWS 6398 Dissertation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RWS 6399</th>
<th>Dissertation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td>45</td>
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1 With advisor's approval, courses outside of the English Department also may be selected.