The major in Writing Studies explores writing as a field of inquiry: its production, its circulation, its uses, and its role in the development of individuals, professional communities, and societies. The major begins with the history of writing practices, genres, systems of production and distribution. It uses the tools of qualitative, quantitative, and humanistic research to advance those explorations. It culminates in a practical examination of writing in traditional and emerging technologies.

The writing curriculum synthesizes 1) knowledge and experience with writing technologies from a liberal arts, as well as a technical, perspective; 2) practice in applying principles of rhetoric, design, cultural theory, and creative thinking to the production of professional writing projects; and 3) communities and other audiences.

Why UMD

Students develop writing skills relevant to professional situations (document design and delivery, the development of varied writing techniques, and persuasive argument) with an understanding of writing's ethical and social implications.

Students are encouraged to participate in UMD-sponsored internships in professional writing, corporate communication, editing, and publishing.

Acquired Skills

Writing Studies majors develop skills in the analysis of rhetorical situations, and learn to think reflectively and critically about their role as writers for professional and civic life. Our students gain insight in the selection of media, and learn how to produce texts appropriate for a variety of discourse communities. Because of the engaging faculty in the Writing Studies Department and the content of the major, students receive an excellent college experience and are prepared for a fulfilling career after they graduate.

All Writing Studies majors complete a senior-year Capstone Experience, in which they work individually with their advisers both to look back at their work in Writing Studies courses at UMD, and to look forward to the next step in their careers.

Career Possibilities

Graduates of writing studies are prepared for careers as writers in any number of organizations, institutions, and businesses.

Graduate Report

Here’s a sampling of positions Writing Studies grads have attained six months to one year after graduation.

- Sports Journalist - Pro Player Insiders, Apple Valley, MN
- Community Editor - Adams Publishing Group, Waconia, MN
- Freelance Writer - Self-employed, St. Paul, MN
- Community Editor - ECM Publishers, Waconia, MN
Social Media Manager - Unique Event Designs, Portland, TX

For more data see the Writing Studies Graduate Follow-Up Report. For ideas about Writing Studies and other majors visit Career & Internship Services.

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