



Department of English

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Dear Vice Provost Smith,

The Minor in Professional Writing is an undergraduate offering housed in the Department of English that offers Ohio State students across the university the cognitive knowledge, practical skills, and hands-on experience they will need to write well in the twenty-first century workplace. overseen by the Program Coordinator, Lindsay Martin, the MPW graduates 50-70 students each year.

The English Department is proposing to make small changes to the MPW to respond to the GEN.

1. To remove the second-level writing course requirement (2367) but expand elective requirements from two to three.
2. The final course structure will include:
  - a. Three electives from a portfolio of writing courses offered by departments throughout the university.
  - b. English 4150, Cultures of Professional Writing, the required core course that prepares students for the internship term.
  - c. English 4189, the Professional Writing Capstone Internship.
3. To move one course between elective groups, English 2269, Digital Media Studies, to better reflect the centrality writing in an increasingly digital world.
4. To add several existing courses across the university to Group B.

Attached is the rationale, table of specific additions to electives, and corrected minor advising sheets to provide further detail. We would like to implement the proposed changes in Autumn 2023.

On behalf of the Department of English, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Hewitt



## Minor in Professional Writing Curriculum Revision Proposal

### 1. Current MPW Curriculum

The current MPW curriculum integrates requirements of the Legacy GE (GEL) by including a 2367 / second-level writing course as part of its 15-hour requirement. This allowed students to discover the MPW as late as their junior year and add on the program, often having already taken the 2367 course and the Group B elective due to GEL and major requirements.

#### Required course (3 credit hours)

2367, Writing Level 2

#### Elective requirements (6 credit hours)

You must choose two courses (6 credit hours), at least one of which must come from Group A.

##### Group A

English 3304, 3305, 3405, 4567S, 3467S

##### Group B

Agricultural Communication 4130, 5135

Agricultural Systems Management 2305

Aviation 2200

Communication 2210, 2221, 2321, 2511, 3334, 3404, 3629, 4202, 4511

Construction Systems Management 2305

English 2268, 2269, 2276, 3271, 3468, 3662, 4568, 4569, 4570, 4572, 4574

Theatre 5331, 5961

Any additional course from Group A

#### Core requirements (6 credit hours)

English 4150 (3 credit hours)

English 4189 (3 credit hours)

### 2. Proposed Revision

To keep the MPW both rigorous and accessible to students in majors and colleges from across the university, **we propose to streamline these requirements categories.**

Instead of requiring 9 credit hours across a 2367 and 2 separate elective categories, we propose requiring 9 credit hours across only the two elective categories, Group A and Group B electives. Students must take at least 3 credit hours in each group, and we will add course listings to each Group to accommodate increased enrollments in each.



- a. **2367 requirement:** Remove
  - i. The GEN no longer requires a second-level writing course, so the MPW can no longer build on this requirement curricularly.
  
- b. **Elective Group A** (at least 3 cr. hrs.; must take 9 cr. hrs. between Groups A and B): Maintain credit hour requirements. Move English 2269 / Digital Media Studies here from Category B.
  - i. **Technology skills in 21<sup>st</sup> century writing:** In part, the MPW ensures that students will “understand the effective use and impact of technology on writing.” As writing becomes more mediated by technology in the global work-world, digital media classes become more central to preparing students to write in the workplace. Moving English 2269 to Group A allows students to choose it as an essential class in the program.
  - ii. **Student scheduling opportunities in Group A elective:** This also increases the opportunities for students to fulfill the Group A elective requirement. Without the 2367 requirement, more students might turn to Group A to fulfill up to 6 credit hours of the MPW (as before, they can take two elective A courses).
  
- c. **Elective Group B** (at least 3 cr. hrs.; must take 9 cr. hrs. between Groups A and B): Because many students will likely choose to complete 6 of their required elective cr. hrs. in Group B, we propose to expand offerings in this category to accommodate more enrollments. We will also eliminate one course by moving it to Group A.
  - i. **Background:** Group B consists of advanced courses that examine professional writing in the disciplines or specific professions, often through writing across genres and/or with a focus on revision. For the GEN, many departments converted these former second-level writing courses into advanced writing embedded literacy courses. Some departments converted them courses into advanced writing courses within the Thematic Pathways instead.
  - ii. **Proposed changes:** The expanded Group B will include **select courses from both Advanced Writing Embedded Literacies and/or the Thematic Pathways**. It will keep most old courses, which typically count toward majors. The MPW and WPD committees have determined appropriate courses after outreach to departments across the university, consultation with Writing Across the Curriculum staff, and based on the extent to which each course emphasizes the following:
    1. Writing instruction itself, including revision; *and/or*
    2. Genres specific to individual professions and/or writing in multiple genres or to audiences other than academics



Specific additions to Category B:

Course Name	Cr.	GEN Placement	Description / Reason
ENGLISH 2367.05: Writing about the U.S. Folk Experience	3	Theme: Lived Environments  This is also an advanced writing embedded literacy class for FCOB and psychology majors	This is an advanced writing course wherein students mobilize folklore as a critical lens for approaching a number of real-world, human experiences, including the traditions, modes of expression, and material cultures of everyday Americans from diverse groups and subcultures.  This course has units that focus on how to write fieldwork notes, how to write research papers, and how to revise. All of these skills are valuable for MPW students, whether they take them forward for academic writing or ethical observation and non-academic writing.
ENGLISH 2367.07S: Literacy Narratives of Black Columbus	3	Theme: Lived Environments  This is also an advanced writing embedded literacy class for FCOB and psychology majors	This course advances students previous writing skills by focusing on deeper levels of critical engagement of primary and secondary (scholarly) texts. Foundational approaches to writing asks students to practice more generic conventions associated with writing and invention, such as basic thesis development, logical organization, developing an argument, and synthesizing sources, etc.  This course is appropriate for the MPW because it hones writing skills with the literacy narrative assignment and also prepares students for professional contexts with the final assignment, the digital exhibit on iMovie, where students conduct oral history interviews with Black communities in Columbus, transcribe those narratives, and present the polished project to the class.
ENGLISH 3020: Writing about Sustainability	3	Theme: Sustainability	This course asks students to consider their place in the natural world and asks the following questions: How do we interact with the natural world, and how does our human-made environment interact with the natural environment? How unequal are these encounters? Which groups in society have access to a natural environment that is safe vs.



			<p>dangerous, polluted vs. unpolluted, wild vs. built, sustainable vs. unsustainable? How has and could writing about such questions affect meaningful change?</p> <p>This is an advanced writing course wherein students will hone their research and writing skills for both academic and other genres. Students will complete the following learning activities: conducting primary and secondary research, analyzing data, composing and revising written arguments, and writing arguments in non-academic genres like blog posts and product reviews. Students will hone writing skills and have several opportunities for peer review and revision.</p>
ENGLISH 3011: Digital Activism	3	Theme: Citizenship for a Just and Diverse World	<p>This course is both critical and creative. In class discussions (50% of the time), students investigate and experiment with the consequences of humans' relationships with digital media. On studio days (50% of the time), students have hands-on guidance in mobilizing digital media for the purpose of protest and activism.</p> <p>The studio days make this fundamentally a production-based class that will serve students who want to use digital skills for the work world. The four main projects are opportunities for them to showcase their critical, rhetorical and digital production skills.</p>
ENGLISH 5191*: *Promotional Media Int. In English Studies	3	N/A	<p>The section of English 5191 offered by Prof. Scott DeWitt and titled "Promotional Media Internship in English Studies" offers students experience in creating timely, relevant and compelling short-form promotional media (primarily video and audio) for the Department of English.</p> <p>Students work closely with their supervisor (Professor DeWitt) as well as with key communications personnel to develop projects and set priorities and deadlines. English 5191,</p>



			<p>Promotional Media Internship, is intensely hands-on and focus almost exclusively on digital media production and related work-management skills in professional settings.</p> <p>This course prepares students for the work-world, builds technical skills, builds students' portfolios, and expands notion of writing to include digital composition. It thus accomplishes all 4 of the MPW learning goals.</p>
ENR 2367: Communicating Environmental and Natural Resources Information	3	AW EL for environmental science majors	<p>Through critical analysis, discussion, and writing, students demonstrate the ability to read carefully and express ideas effectively. Students apply written, oral, and visual communication skills and conventions of academic discourse to the challenges of a specific discipline. Students access and use information critically and analytically. Students will work toward these outcomes through 1) weekly readings to be analyzed in labs; 2) assignments providing practice in the types of communication ENR students will use in their careers; 3) class readings and literature review for your research paper and group presentations.</p>
LINGUISTICS 3000: Writing for Linguistics	3	AW EL for linguistics majors	<p>This course focuses on how to make good arguments. It is designed to help students develop writing and communication skills that can be applied to any future endeavor—academic or otherwise—while also learning about disciplinary norms in linguistics.</p> <p>In this course, students write for both specialist and public audiences, and they have several opportunities to revise their writing.</p>
PUBAFRS 2367: Writing and Communication in Public Affairs	3	AW for all John Glenn students	<p>Students write a position paper, a briefing memo, and written testimony to influence a governmental decision-making group. The public audiences and professional nature of these genres make this class ideal for the Minor in Professional Writing.</p>



PHR 2367.01/2367.02: Drug Use in American Culture	3	AW EL for pharmaceutical sciences majors;  Also proposed as a Health/Wellness Themes course	This course includes rigorous writing instruction with checkpoint assignments that teach crafting research questions, evaluating news and scientific sources, crafting arguments, revising academic papers, and then reframing arguments for non-academic audiences.
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**Specific deletions to Category B:**

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Cr.</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Reason</b>
COMM 2210: News Design	3	Delete from Group B	No longer offered by the unit
ENGLISH 4570: Introduction to the History of English	3	Delete from Group B	No longer offered by the unit