DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN RHETORIC

Rhetoric provides the coordinating force for the study of composition, linguistics, literary theory, and literature within the field of English. The doctoral program in rhetoric prepares graduate students to be scholars and leaders of discourse and technology which utilizes language to inform, persuade, express, and explore ideas. In keeping with the university's mission of empowering women, the program also encourages scholarship on gender issues in the field of rhetoric. Graduates are qualified to pursue professions in both academic and non-academic settings: teaching and research in institutions of higher education, administering writing programs, using technology for teaching writing, or pursuing careers in writing and editing in business settings.

Coursework consists of a core set of rhetoric classes, a self-designed area of specialization, and electives to ensure students have both a broad knowledge base and a deep understanding of their desired sub-field(s). Comprehensive exams in the history of rhetoric, applied rhetoric, and the self-designed area take place at the end of formal coursework. Students can expect a minimum of 12 credit hours to complete the dissertation, including 3 hours to craft the dissertation prospectus.

We offer a range of face-to-face, online and hybrid graduate courses to allow our working, commuting and parenting students the opportunity to balance rigorous academic course work with their busy lives. Our face-to-face graduate courses are offered one day per week, typically in late afternoon or evening. While our online offerings provide the flexibility to meet a variety of student needs, the program is not intended to be a fully-online program and cannot be completed through online classes only.

Degree Requirements

Total Semester Credit Hours Required
At least 90 semester credit hours beyond the baccalaureate, including at least 12 semester credit hours for dissertation. Applicants to the program are expected to have earned a master's degree prior to beginning the doctoral program. At least one degree, either the bachelor’s or master’s, should be in English, Writing, Rhetoric or a closely related field. The number of hours from the master’s degree that may count towards the doctoral program. At least one degree, either the bachelor’s or master’s, should be in English, Writing, Rhetoric or a closely related field. The number of hours from the master’s degree that may count towards the doctoral program.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>SCHs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 5283</td>
<td>Introduction to Graduate Studies in English (required of all doctoral students who have not already had a similar course)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 5343</td>
<td>Rhetoric and Composition: Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 5383</td>
<td>Rhetoric and Composition: Theory and Pedagogy of Electronic Texts</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 6203</td>
<td>History of Rhetoric I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 6213</td>
<td>History of Rhetoric II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 6223</td>
<td>History of Rhetoric III</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 6083</td>
<td>Research Methods in Rhetoric and Composition</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhetoric Electives: 6 semester credit hours in rhetoric, writing, or linguistics</td>
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(in whole or in part) twice will result in the student being removed from the program.

**Dissertation Defense**
A public oral examination covering the area of the completed dissertation and areas related to it is required.

**Research Tools**
Doctoral students are required to take two research tools, each equivalent to a minimum of 6 semester credit hours at the graduate level or 12 semester credit hours at the undergraduate level.

1. **Required Research Tool (6 graduate semester credit hours)**
   The following courses from the Rhetoric Core make up one research tool: ENG 5343 and ENG 6083

2. **Required Research Tool (6 graduate semester credit hours or 12 undergraduate semester credit hours)**
   Students may choose two courses from the following English courses to make up their second research tool: ENG 5083, ENG 5283, ENG 5363, ENG 6283, ENG 6313, ENG 6323, or ENG 6343
   Courses listed above may be repeated when the specific topic of investigation varies.
   Students may also choose 1-2 research courses taught in other disciplines, such as information retrieval, ethnography, or statistics, as approved by the advisory committee and department chair; or 6 semester credit hours of graduate level or 12 semester credit hours of undergraduate level language courses.

Students are advised to select research tools which complement their Area of Specialization.

Students must receive a "B" or higher in all research tools. English and non-English courses may count toward the 90 semester credit hours of the degree, at the discretion of the advisory committee and department chair. Undergraduate courses taken as research tools may not be used in the semester credit hours that count toward the graduate degree.

**Graduation Requirement**
To allow for program-level assessment, PhD candidates must submit a copy of the dissertation to the Graduate Program Coordinator at the time of final submission to the graduate school. Submission of the dissertation to the coordinator is required for graduation.