As a master of arts student in Texas State University’s rhetoric and composition program, you will join a vibrant and supportive community of faculty and students dedicated to the study of written discourse and the teaching of writing within and across social, cultural, institutional and technological contexts.

You will be invited to develop a course of study that combines foundational knowledge in the history and theory of rhetoric, composition theory and pedagogy, and research methods with focused study in areas that best suit your own needs and future goals. These areas range from minority rhetorics and writing center studies to teaching with technology and basic writing theory and practice.

Your degree in rhetoric and composition will prepare you to teach writing in high school, community college and university settings; develop and administer writing programs and writing centers in these settings; train teachers of writing; enter doctoral programs in rhetoric and composition; and write for business and industry.
Course Work
The M.A. in rhetoric and composition requires 33 semester hours and includes both thesis (six hours) and portfolio (three hours) options. Core courses are designed to provide a solid and shared foundation in theory, pedagogy and research methods. Elective courses allow you to craft a degree program that meets your needs.

All students take 12 hours of core courses in rhetoric and composition:
- Composition Theory
- Composition Pedagogy
- History and Theory of Rhetoric
- Research Methods

All students choose nine to 18 hours of electives in rhetoric and composition. Thesis students complete nine elective hours in rhetoric and composition plus six hours in a cognate, or 15 elective hours in rhetoric and composition without a cognate. Portfolio students complete 12 elective hours in rhetoric and composition plus six hours in a cognate, or 18 elective hours in rhetoric and composition without a cognate.

Thesis students complete a thesis proposal, thesis and oral comprehensive exam.

Portfolio students develop a final portfolio, take a written comprehensive exam, and complete an oral defense of the exam and portfolio.

Faculty
Rhetoric and composition faculty are dedicated to students and their success. They mentor students, invite them to collaborate on conference panels, research and publications, encourage their professional development through workshops and networking, and provide a supportive environment for learning.

Faculty are also leaders in their field, holding high-profile positions in national organizations, serving on editorial boards of major journals in the field, presenting papers regularly at regional and national conferences, and publishing actively in rhetoric and composition. Many have received national, university and departmental awards for exceptional teaching, research and service.

Admission Policy
To be considered for admission, you must have a GPA of at least 3.0 in 12 hours or more of undergraduate English courses and a GPA of at least 2.75 on the last 60 undergraduate semester hours of letter-grade work. In addition, you must demonstrate graduate-level writing ability.

You must submit the following to The Graduate College at Texas State:
- the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- application fee
- one official transcript from each college or university attended, including community colleges
- three letters of recommendation submitted directly to The Graduate College. Letters should assess the applicant’s potential for graduate study in rhetoric and composition and, if the applicant is applying for a graduate assistantship, their potential as a writing instructor including experience teaching, tutoring or editing.

Please submit an electronic portfolio of writing samples saved as a single PDF file at https://tim.txstate.edu/gadocumentupload. The electronic portfolio must contain the following:
1. Statement of purpose discussing their future career and/or academic aspirations; research and teaching interests; relevant background, including paid or nonpaid writing, tutoring or teaching experience; and other information the committee will use to assess suitability for the program.
2. At least two nonfiction documents totaling a minimum of 15 double-spaced pages (at least one should be an academic research paper written for an undergraduate or graduate course).
3. Cover letter explaining when and for whom the submitted writing samples were written and discussing why they have been included as representative work.

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application, where to send application documents and more details. Application deadlines for the M.A. in rhetoric and composition are flexible. However, we encourage you to submit materials by the deadlines specified by The Graduate College: June 15 for the fall semester, October 15 for the spring semester, and April 15 for the summer semester.

Financial Assistance
The Department of English awards two types of assistantships to full-time students. Current graduate students or applicants are eligible to apply for an instructional assistantship. Students who have already completed 18 graduate hours may be considered for an appointment as a teaching assistant.

The deadline for IA/TA applications is January 15 for appointments that begin the following fall. Applications and additional information about IA/TA positions can be found at www.english.txstate.edu/admissions/apps.

Rhetoric and composition graduate students are also encouraged to apply for consulting positions in the English Department’s Writing Center. Consultants earn an hourly wage and gain experience working one-to-one with writers from across the disciplines.

For a list of English Department scholarships, visit www.english.txstate.edu/studentst/dept-scholarships.html. For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit The Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact
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