

ENGLISH RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION (PHD)

Doctor of Philosophy in English Rhetoric and Composition

Unit: Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (<https://louisville.edu/artsandsciences/>) (GA)

Department: English (<https://louisville.edu/english/graduate/>)

Program Webpage (<https://louisville.edu/english/graduate/ph-d-in-rhetoric-composition/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): ERC _ PHD

Program Information

Mission Statement

The Doctor of Philosophy in Rhetoric and Composition provides graduate training in the history and theory of rhetoric; theory and empirical research in composition; an area of literary study; and the relation of rhetoric and composition to allied fields (e.g., critical theory, cultural studies, linguistics).

Goals for the PhD are that students will:

1. Gain specialized and current disciplinary knowledge;
2. Write a dissertation in which they initiate and complete specialized research that addresses an original and significant question in rhetoric and composition; and
3. Acquire experience and expertise as writing teachers.

Admission Requirements

Application Due: January 5 (Fall admission only)

All applicants should submit:

1. Online Graduate Application (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/admission/apply/>) (including application fee).
2. A current CV or resume. For applicants who wish to be considered for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship, the CV should detail your teaching and/or tutoring experience and other relevant background or training. It should also include the contact information for persons who can comment on your teaching performance and/or potential.
3. A written statement of no more than 1,000 words detailing the applicant's professional goals in the field of rhetoric and composition.
4. Complete official transcripts of **all** college-level work. Official transcripts must be sent directly to the Graduate School by the previous institution.
5. Three academic letters of recommendation. Letters from employers and personal references are not acceptable. The reference should speak to the prospective student's ability to succeed in their graduate studies. Discursive letters must be attached to the PDF form.
6. A critical writing sample of at least 15 pages. This writing sample should demonstrate your skills in critical thinking and analytical writing. For example, this can be a substantial analysis paper or research paper written for an (under)graduate course, a chapter from a Bachelor/Honors/Master thesis, or a published journal article.
7. A teaching statement (1-2 pages) describing how you would approach teaching in general and teaching writing in particular. If you have experience as a teaching or tutor, describe your teaching philosophy and provide some specific examples of how you turn that philosophy into practice in the classroom or writing center. What are

the most important concepts and skills you think student writers need to learn? If you do not have experience as a teacher or tutor, describe what, as a student, you have found effective in your best teachers. What approaches to teaching and what personal qualities did you value in their work? Describe how you would approach teaching based on what you have experienced. What are the most important concepts and skills you think student writers need to learn?

8. **For international applicants:** Official reports of the TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo examination demonstrating English language proficiency. All applicants for whom English is a second language must also submit one of the following: official TOEFL scores (213 or higher on the computer based test, 550 or higher on the paper based test, or 80 or higher on the internet-based test); official reports of the TOEFL, IELTS scores with at least a 6.5 overall band score from the academic module exam; or official Duolingo scores of 105 or higher. Only official Duolingo tests with subscores are accepted. Applicants holding a bachelor's or advanced degree from an accredited U.S. institution may be exempt from the English proficiency requirement.

Special notes:

- GRE scores are not required.
- The entire application must be completed by January 5th to be considered for a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) position.

Degree Requirements

All doctoral students are expected to complete a minimum of 42 graduate credit hours, which must include twelve (12) credit hours of Dissertation Research (ENGL 690); successfully complete the Modern and Contemporary Rhetoric and Composition exam and the Specified Literature Area exam; and complete and defend a dissertation.

More information on requirements can be found in the English Department Graduate Program Guidelines (<https://louisville.edu/english/graduate/graduate-program-guidelines/>).

Graduate-level English courses beyond those listed may count towards requirements depending on the topics covered. Detailed course descriptions (<http://louisville.edu/english/graduate/graduate-course-descriptions/>), available on the English Department website, will provide this information and can be discussed during advising with the director of graduate studies.

Code	Title	Hours
General Requirements		
ENGL 602	Teaching College Composition ¹	3
ENGL 620	Research in the Composition	3
GS 799	Doctoral Exam Prep ²	0
Pedagogy and Program Administration		3
ENGL 667	Assessing and Responding to Student Writing or ENGL 670 Composition Theory and Practice	3
Rhetoric		
ENGL 603	Studies in Genres or ENGL 671 History of Rhetoric I or ENGL 672 History of Rhetoric II or ENGL 673 Rhetoric and Textual Analysis or ENGL 676 The Rhetoric of Science	
Critical Theory		

ENGL 691	Contemporary Theories of Interpretation or ENGL 692 Topics in Interpretive Theory Since 1900	
Literature ³		6
ENGL 603	Studies in Genres or ENGL 605 Teaching Literature: Theory and Practice or ENGL 606 Creative Writing I or ENGL 607 Creative Writing II or ENGL 624 Old English and Middle English Language and Literature or ENGL 631 Renaissance Drama or ENGL 632 Shakespeare or ENGL 633 Renaissance Poetry and Prose or ENGL 642 Eighteenth-Century Fiction or ENGL 643 Eighteenth-Century Poetry and Prose or ENGL 644 Romantic Poetry and Prose or ENGL 651 Nineteenth-Century Fiction or ENGL 652 Nineteenth-Century British Poetry and Prose or ENGL 653 Irish Studies or ENGL 654 Twentieth-Century Literature or ENGL 660 African-American Literature or ENGL 661 Nineteenth-Century American Fiction or ENGL 662 Nineteenth-Century American Poetry and Prose or ENGL 664 American Authors: 1900-Present or ENGL 665 Contemporary Poetry or ENGL 681 Seminar in Special Studies or ENGL 685 Seminar in Modern British Studies or ENGL 686 Seminar in American Studies	
Electives		9
Three further seminars in Rhetoric and Composition; or two Rhetoric and Composition seminars plus one course taken outside the department.		
Dissertation Research		0
ENGL 690	Dissertation Research ⁴	12
Minimum Total Hours		42

¹ ENGL 602 is a requirement even for those students who have completed an equivalent course at another institution. The Director of Composition has the sole right to waive this requirement.

² Non-GTA PhD students are not required to be enrolled in GS 799 at any point.

³ The six (6) credit hours of Literature courses may be selected from any of the courses listed, as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. Students may fulfill this requirement with critical theory, literature, or creative writing. Three (3) of the six (6) credit hours may be in creative writing (ENGL 606 or ENGL 607).

⁴ The program requires at least twelve (12) credit hours of ENGL 690 (Dissertation Research).