

# 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:

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

## Admission Requirements

Application Due: January 5 (fall admission only)

All applicants should submit:

- a. Online Graduate Application (<http://louisville.edu/graduate/apply/>).
- b. A written statement of no more than 1,000 words detailing the applicant's professional goals in the field of rhetoric and composition.
- c. Complete official transcripts of **all** college-level work.
- d. Three academic letters of recommendation.
- e. Critical writing sample (15-20 pages).
- f. Application for Graduate Teaching Assistantship (<https://louisville.edu/english/graduate/forms/PhDGTAApplicationII.pdf>) (GTA). The entire application must be completed by January 5th to be considered for a GTA position. The completed GTA application form should be sent directly to the department via email to: [englgrad@louisville.edu](mailto:englgrad@louisville.edu).
- g. 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?
- h. All applicants for whom English is a second language must also submit official TOEFL scores of 79 or higher on the internet-based

test, 213 or higher on the computer-based test. English proficiency can also be met by submitting official IELTS scores of at least 6.5 overall band score from the academic module exam or official Duolingo overall score of 105. Students holding a bachelor's or advanced degree from an accredited institution in the United States may be exempt from this requirement.

## Degree Requirements

All doctoral students are expected to complete a minimum of 45 graduate credit hours; demonstrate proficiency in one language other than English; successfully complete the Modern and Contemporary Rhetoric and Composition exam and the Specified Literature Area exam; complete and defend a dissertation; and participate in a year-long supervised teaching-internship. (Graduate teaching assistants automatically fulfill the professional requirement once they have completed one successful year as a graduate teaching assistant.)

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
<b>General Requirements</b>		
ENGL 602	Teaching College Composition	3
ENGL 620	Research in the Composition	3
ENGL 689	Directed Reading for Comprehensive Examinations	3
<b>Pedagogy and Program Administration</b>		<b>3</b>
ENGL 667	Assessing and Responding to Student Writing or ENGL 670 Composition Theory and Practice	
<b>Rhetoric</b>		<b>3</b>
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	
<b>Literature <sup>1</sup></b>		<b>9</b>
ENGL 691	Contemporary Theories of Interpretation or ENGL 692 Topics in Interpretive Theory Since 1900	
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

<b>Electives</b>		<b>9</b>
ENGL 690	Dissertation Research	12
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>45</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students must take either ENGL 691 or ENGL 692 as part of the Literature requirement. The remaining Literature hours may be selected from any of the additional courses listed, in consultation with the student's advisor.