

Professional Writing



This interdisciplinary program prepares you to write accurate, clear, non-academic prose for a variety of audiences and situations. It teaches you how to research and analyze a wide range of topics, manage social media for professional purposes, and write and design readable, compelling documents, both in print and online. Because technology has become central to professional writing and publishing, the program is designed to encourage facility with a range of platforms and applications.

Minor Requirements

Five affiliated courses from two or more departments and including one or more of the following

- COM 230 Journalism
- ENG 201 Professional Writing
- ENG 301 Writing for Online Platforms

Students may complete a pre-approved internship or two-semester editorship in place of one course; submission of a portfolio will be required. A concentration remains an option for students who matriculated before Summer of 2022.

Selected Affiliated Courses

CIS 245 Information Visualization
CIS 271 Digital and Social Media
CIS 275 Web Design and Development
COM 230 Journalism
COM 281 Introduction to Public Relations
ENG 200 Advanced Writing and Research Skills
ENG 201 Professional Writing
ENG 202 Topics in Professional Writing
ENG 203 Editing and Print Design
ENG 301 Writing for Online Platforms
ENG 401 Topics in Advanced Professional Writing
HIS 272 Introduction to Public History
BIO 350 Environmental Plant Physiology
FRN 371 Business Communication and Culture
GER 371 Business Communication and Culture
HIS 372 Public History: Design and Exhibition
MKT 308 Consumer Behavior
MKT 309 Marketing Research
SPN 371 Business Communication and Culture

Program Website

washjeff.edu/professional-writing

Program Chair

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Faculty

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Beyond the Classroom

Our students learn how to exercise their communication skills in a professional environment, which makes them strong candidates for communication-based internships across a variety of industries. Our students have interned at Duncan & Miller Steel Glass Museum, Main Street Farmer's Market, Brandt Street Press, and the Washington County Historical Society, among other organizations.

In W&J's classroom, professors show their students out-of-the-box ways to apply professional writing skills across a variety of fields. Professor Kay McEvoy, Ph.D., has led students through the process of researching, writing, and [recording their own podcasts](#) on the folklore topics of their choice, from leprechauns to tricksters to the origins of Dracula, and even the legend of Pittsburgh's own 13 Bends Road.

Successful Alumni

- Associate editor, Electrical Contractor (trade journal)
- Communications specialist, UPMC
- Offline captioner, VITAC
- Research analyst, DiscoverOrg
- Senior HR communications specialist, Intel

Internships & Editorships

- Internship, Brandt Street Press
- Internship, Duncan & Miller Glass Museum
- Internship, Main Street Farmer's Market
- Internship, Questeq
- Internship, Washington Co. Historical Society
- Editorship, Red & Black
- Editorship, Wooden Tooth Review

Careers

- Copywriter
- Editor
- Marketing and communications specialist
- Researcher
- Social media manager
- Technical writer

