

WRITING - CERTIFICATE

The interdisciplinary certificate in writing allows CU Boulder undergraduates to gain an understanding of and demonstrate expertise in writing studies, broadly defined. The certificate offers a curriculum that goes well beyond the writing courses that schools and colleges require of all students, thereby complementing a student's academic major, preparing students for professional life and enriching students' awareness of writing as a life-long tool for civic engagement. The certificate communicates the importance placed on writing well, and documents accomplishments of interest to graduate programs or workplaces emphasizing effective communication skills.

The certificate in writing is housed in the Program for Writing and Rhetoric (PWR), and the curriculum is intentionally interdisciplinary. Participating units beyond PWR include English, linguistics, communication, journalism, media studies and education. The certificate includes a practicum component, and culminates in a curated electronic portfolio that students can use as they pursue further professional interests.

Requirements

Students must complete at least 18 credit hours, 9 of which must be upper-division, and adhere to the following:

- At least 6 credit hours: WRTG courses within the PWR (not including 1000-level courses).
- At least 6 credit hours: courses from outside of the PWR.
- At least 1 credit hour: required portfolio curation pass/fail course, and practicum course(s) focusing on applied professional work.

No more than two courses (6 credit hours) can be counted from a student's major, and no more than 6 credit hours of transfer work from another institution may be applied to the certificate.

Overview of Required Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Writing and Rhetoric Courses		
Select at least two courses (6 credits) from the following:		6
WRTG 2000	Information and Society	
WRTG 2020	Introduction to Creative Nonfiction	
WRTG 2090	Electives in Writing	
WRTG 2930	Internship in Writing and Rhetoric	
WRTG 3007	Writing in the Visual Arts	
WRTG 3020	Topics in Writing	
WRTG 3030	Writing on Science and Society	
WRTG 3035	Technical Communication and Design	
WRTG 3040	Writing on Business and Society	
WRTG 3045	Writing for Emerging Workplaces	
WRTG 3090	Open Topics in Writing: Advanced	
WRTG 3840	Independent Study	
WRTG 3930	Internship in Writing and Rhetoric	
Courses Outside Writing & Rhetoric		
Select at least two courses (6 credits) outside of the PWR. See details below.		6
Portfolio Curation & Practicum Course(s)		1

WRTG 4910	Portfolio Curation in Writing and Rhetoric	
Electives		5
Total Credit Hours		18

About the Requirements

Courses from Outside the Program for Writing and Rhetoric

Select at least two courses (6 credits) outside the program from the following two categories, in any combination.

Courses that Fulfill the A&S Upper-Division Written Communication Requirement

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ARSC 3100	Multicultural Perspective and Academic Discourse	3
CHIN 3200	Adv Wrtg Topics on Chinese & Japanese Literature and Civilization	3
EBIO 3940	Written Communication in the Sciences	3
ENVS 3020	Advanced Writing in Environmental Studies	3
GEOL 3090	Developing Scientific Writing Skills	3
HIST 3020	Historical Thinking & Writing	3
HONR 3220	Advanced Honors Writing Workshop	3
IPHY 3700	Scientific Writing in Integrative Physiology	3
ITAL 3025	Advanced Composition 2: Introduction to Literary Writing	3
JPNS 3200	Adv Wrtg Topics on Chinese & Japanese Literature and Civilization	3
PHIL 3480	Critical Thinking/Writing in Philosophy	3
PHYS 3050	Writing in Physics: Problem-Solving and Rhetoric	3
RLST 3020	Advanced Writing in Religious Studies	3
SPAN 3010	Advanced Rhetoric and Composition	3
WGST 3800	Advanced Writing in Feminist Studies	3

Courses that Treat Theories and Contexts Pertaining to Writing

Students in the following programs may count up to two of the listed courses in their major (6 credits) toward the certificate.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Communication Majors		
COMM 1210	Perspectives on Human Communication	3
COMM 1300	Public Speaking	3
COMM 2400	Discourse, Culture and Identities	3
COMM 3300	Rhetorical Thinking	3
COMM 3320	Persuasion in Society	3
COMM 3340	Political Communication	3
COMM 3410	Intercultural Communication	3
COMM 3420	Gender and Communication	3
COMM 3610	Communication, Technology, and Society	3
COMM 3630	Organizational Communication	3
COMM 4100	Seminar in Honors Thesis Writing and Research	3

Education Licensure Students ¹

EDUC 3013	School and Society	3
EDUC 4135	Story and Memoir	3
English Majors ²		
ENGL 1191	Introduction to Creative Writing	3
ENGL 2036	Introduction to Media Studies in the Humanities	3
ENGL 4026	Special Topics in Genre, Media, and Advanced Writing	3
ENGL 4116	Advanced Topics in Media Studies	3
ENGL 4830	Honors Thesis	3
Journalism Majors		
JRNL 2401	Media Coverage of Diverse Populations	3
JRNL 3112	Concepts in Visual Culture	3
JRNL 3201	Critical Perspectives on Journalism	3
JRNL 3202	Covering Political Campaigns	3
JRNL 3401	Sociology of News	3
JRNL 4311	Literary Journalism	3
JRNL 4401	News and Public Perception	3
JRNL 4411	International Media and Global Crises	3
Linguistics Majors		
LING 1000	Language in U.S. Society	3
LING 1010	The Study of Words	3
LING 2400	Language, Gender and Sexuality	3
LING 3220	American Indigenous Languages in their Social and Cultural Context	3
LING 3545	World Language Policies	3
LING 4800	Language and Culture	3
LING 4830	Honors Thesis	3
Media Studies Majors		
MDST 3002	Digital Culture and Politics	3
MDST 3201	Media, Culture and Globalization	3
MDST 3321	Media Industries and Economics	3
MDST 3401	Media, Food and Culture	3
MDST 3711	Media and Popular Culture	3
MDST 3791	Media and the Public	3
MDST 4111	Crime, Media and Contemporary Culture	3
MDST 4211	Asian Media and Culture	3
MDST 4331	Gender, Race, Class, and Sexuality in Popular Culture	3
MDST 4371	Media and Religion	3

¹ Upper-division EDUC courses in Literacy Studies count toward the certificate. Consult the School of Education for offerings in any given semester.

² Just as 1000-level PWR expository writing courses do not count toward the certificate, neither is ENGL 1001 eligible.

Practicum Course(s)

Students must complete a 1-credit, pass/fail course for portfolio curation (WRTG 4910), along with one of the three practicum options below. Students may select the option that best suits their interest and career goals.

Internship

Of interest to students intending to work in business, industry or nonprofits:

- Complete an internship, either with the PWR (WRTG 2930 or WRTG 3930) or with the major department (e.g., ENGL 3930 or JRNL 4931), that has a significant writing component. For an internship to count toward the certificate, it must be pre-approved by the certificate coordinator. Following the internship, the student must submit a brief (2–3 page) report describing the writing activities and how the internship contributed to learning outcomes.

Writing Center Consultancy or School-Based Literacy Practicum

Of interest to students intending to work in education and related fields:

- WRTG 2090 Electives in Writing (3) (Writing Center Theory and Practice)
- EDUC 4321 Writing Instruction for Elementary Schools (3) (for students already accepted into the teacher licensure program)
- EDUC 4345 Secondary English Methods I (3) (for students already accepted into the teacher licensure program)

Graduate Study in Writing Pedagogy

Of interest to students intending to conduct graduate work in rhetoric and composition:

- WRTG 5050 Graduate Studies in Writing and Rhetoric (3) (various topics, with permission).

Learning Outcomes

The certificate in writing has at its core a set of *aspirational learning outcomes*, which are met over the course of the certificate:

- Ability to compose effectively in a variety of genres, ranging from academic genres to professional workplace genres and civic genres.
- Ability to address a range of audiences effectively, and to understand how to accommodate secondary or multiple audiences.
- Ability to analyze and/or argue effectively, and to call on available means of persuasion and apply appropriately a range of rhetorical strategies.
- Ability to draw on a range of styles as appropriate to the purpose, audience, and rhetorical situation, and to meet professional standards of correctness.
- Ability to apply disciplinary expertise to engage a range of readers, in a variety of rhetorical contexts.
- Ability to compose with digital and multi-modal tools in evolving, hybrid genres.
- Ability to understand and practice writing as an act of composing in the broader media landscape.
- Ability to seek, access, evaluate, and apply a range of information literacy resources, and to appreciate the complex, evolving role of information in disciplinary and social contexts.
- Ability to use composition skills effectively in broader contexts of communication, including public speaking.
- Ability to apply compositional skills in professional contexts and organizations, ranging from advanced academic work to business settings, and in genres ranging from PowerPoint presentations to scientific posters.
- Ability to appreciate and use composing tools in civic contexts and in life-long learning.

The student will have the opportunity to demonstrate how these aspirational learning goals have been met by creating and curating an *electronic portfolio* of work completed during the certificate experience. This portfolio asks students to synthesize their learning and articulate how it advances their academic and professional goals.