

Bachelor of Arts in Writing Studies

The major in Writing Studies at the University of Minnesota Duluth offers a concentration in Journalism or Professional Writing. Both areas explore writing as a field of inquiry—its production, its circulation, its uses, and its role in the development of individuals, professional communities, and societies.

Students Studying Writing



Dr. Chongwon Park leads a discussion with undergraduate students.

A major in Writing Studies begins with the history of writing practices, moving into the study of forms of writing and ways that writing does work in the world. Students develop an understanding of the relationships among writing, thinking, and communicating. They critically reflect on their role as writers, not only as career professionals but also as members of the broader community.

Writing is explored in traditional and emerging technologies. Students analyze, draft, revise, and edit written texts to meet the expectations of rhetorical situations, including using new media and visual materials.

Faculty Supporting Students

Students majoring in Writing Studies are assigned faculty advisers from the Department of Writing Studies. Advisers provide support and guidance so that students reach their academic goals and graduate in a timely manner.

Graduates Creating Change

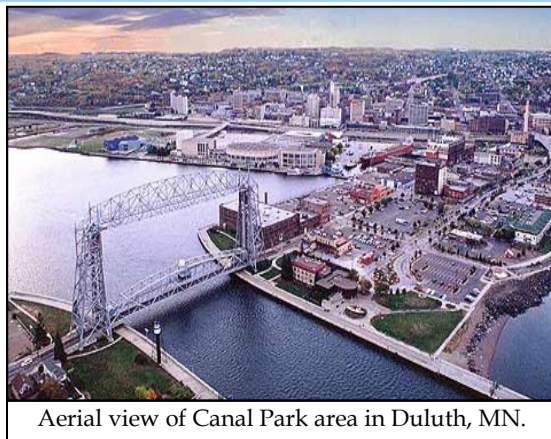
Writing Studies graduates use language to cause and create change. They become sophisticated writers, aware of the needs of diverse audiences. Graduates are equipped to compete for jobs in the region and beyond, in corporate as well as community contexts. The emphasis on problem solving and critical thinking skills in the program equips graduates for the rigors of keeping pace with the constant changes that characterize today's careers.

Written communication skills are consistently reiterated as essential to professional success. Effective writers, by the same token, are essential to the operation of business, government, and civic life. Regionally, Writing Studies majors have potential for leadership in research, tourism, mining, medicine, journalism, government, and graduate studies.

Minors are also offered by the Department of Writing Studies in the following areas:

- Linguistics
- Information Design
- Professional Writing
- Journalism

Contact the Writing Studies Department for information specific to the minors.



Aerial view of Canal Park area in Duluth, MN.

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B.A. in Writing Studies: Journalism Track

The journalism curriculum engages students in the study and practice of mass communication in a converged, multimedia environment. The program is built on a liberal arts foundation, including the history, traditions, routines, and practices of journalism.



Dr. John Hatcher engages students in a journalism class.

Students in this track focus on

- the sociology of news and the context in which it is practiced,
- the study of legal and ethical dimensions in journalism, and
- the skills needed to succeed professionally.

Graduates of this program will integrate cutting edge communication technology with a strong commitment to professional and community ethics. They will be prepared for careers as reporters, editors, producers, and photographers in print, broadcast, and multimedia news as well as many other related professions.

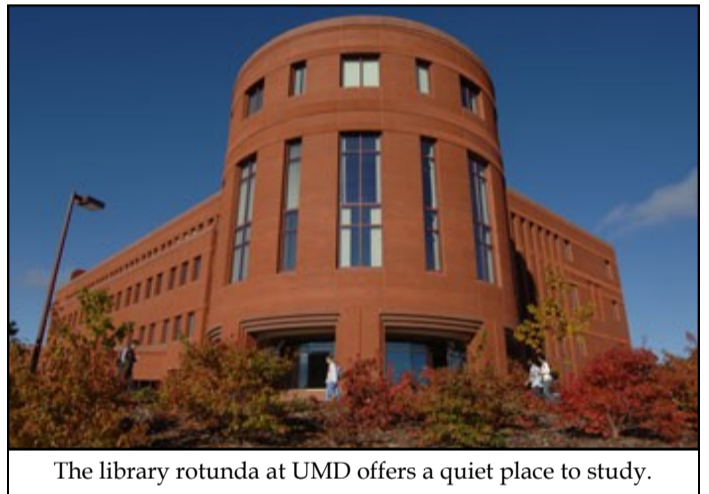
B.A. in Writing Studies: Professional Writing Track

The professional writing curriculum combines knowledge and experience with writing technologies from a liberal arts as well as a technical perspective. Students apply principles of rhetoric, design, cultural theory, and creative thinking to professional writing projects in a variety of fields.

Students in this track focus on

- the design and production of professional documents in particular contexts,
- the study of rhetorical and cultural aspects of professional writing, and
- the skills needed to reach goals in varied writing environments.

The professional writing track gives students experience in developing successful relationships with writers and designers. Students gain an understanding of writing's ethical and social implications as well as cultivate skills relevant to professional situations. Graduates of the professional writing track are prepared for careers as writers in any number of organizations, institutions, and businesses.



The library rotunda at UMD offers a quiet place to study.

Internship Opportunities

Writing Studies majors are encouraged to participate in UMD-sponsored internships in professional writing, corporate communication, editing, and publishing. Internships are also available at news and broadcast organizations, both locally and across the country. Additionally, students have the opportunity to do extra-curricular work at the student newspaper and UMD's radio station. To learn more about internship requirements, visit www.d.umn.edu/writ.



Technology and the Writing Studies B.A.

Students graduating with a major in Writing Studies prepare an electronic portfolio highlighting their academic achievements and development as professionals. Students are able to create and share any number of online portfolios with prospective employers and graduate school programs.

Laptop computers are also an integral part of the College of Liberal Arts curriculum. For more information about CLA technology programs, go to www.clatech.org.

Visit www.d.umn.edu/writ for more information and links related to Writing Studies at UMD.

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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Direct requests to Writing Studies, 420 Humanities, (218) 726-8131.