

Rhetoric, Theory, and Culture Doctorate

Department Information

- **Program Information:**
ndsu.edu/programs/graduate/rhetoric-theory-and-culture (<http://ndsu.edu/programs/graduate/rhetoric-theory-and-culture/>)
- **Department Web Site:**
ndsu.edu/english (<http://ndsu.edu/english/>)
- **Application Deadline:**
Application review begins Feb. 1 and continues until all spots are filled.
- **Credential Offered:**
Ph.D.
- **English Proficiency Requirements:**
TOEFL ibt 100; IELTS 7; Duolingo 125

Apply Now (https://ndsugrad.my.site.com/Application/TX_SiteLogin/?startURL=/Application/TargetX_Portal__PB)

1. Code	Title	Credits
Ph.D. Core		12
ENGL 755	Composition Theory	
ENGL 756	Composition Research	
ENGL 760	Graduate Scholarship	
ENGL 762	Critical Theory	
Other research methods		3
COMM 704	Qualitative Research Methods in Communication	
COMM 767	Rhetorical Criticism	
ENGL 649	Usability and User Experience	
SOC 700	Qualitative Methods	
SOC 701	Quantitative Methods	
Pedagogy		3
ENGL 764	Teaching Workshop for Writing Instructors	
ENGL 765	Upper Division Writing: Pedagogy, Practice, and Technology	
ENGL 766	Teaching Literature	
Additional graduate-level courses ¹		21-51
Experiential learning ²		9
Dissertation Research		15
ENGL 899		

¹ Students select, in consultation with their advisor, additional courses inside the English department that match their research and deepen their understanding of the field. Three additional methods, pedagogy, or theory courses may be taken from outside the English department, as approved by advisor and graduate director. Courses in this category may be at the 600-, 700-, or 800-level. Note that students with no background in English studies must include courses in literature and linguistics in their plan of study and that topics and studies courses may be repeated.

² Teaching Mentorship (0-6 credits); may be taken twice but total may not exceed 6 credits.

- Students work with faculty to read theory and co-teach 200, 300, or 400 level class. ENGL 792 or ENGL 892

Internship (0-6 credits); may be taken twice but total may not exceed 6 credits.

- Students work in administrative, editing, consulting, or writing roles.

Life experience (0-3 credits).

- Students submit, in consultation with their advisor and the graduate director, a portfolio that reflects their professional experience prior to enrolling in the program.

Experiential Learning forms are found on the department website. (<https://www.ndsu.edu/english/graduate/resources/#:~:text=Experiential%20Learning%20Forms>)

Comprehensive Exams

Comprehensive exams are taken after the successful completion of 72 credits (grade B or higher) and are administered by the student's supervisory committee, which is comprised of a committee chair and two readers from within the department. The exams consist of two timed, written exams.

Dissertation: 15 credits (English 899)

The dissertation proposal precedes formal work on the dissertation. The supervisory committee is comprised of the three members of the exam committee, plus a Graduate School Representative (GSR) from outside the department.

Admission and Application Requirements

Graduate School admission and application requirements are found on the Admission Information (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/graduate/admission-information/>) page. In addition to these requirements, the following are required:

- In most cases, a completed Master of Arts or Science degree, but exceptional candidates may be admitted directly out of the bachelor's degree
- Have completed a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, or Master of Science from an accredited educational institution.
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5.
- An academic writing sample, not to exceed 20 pages, that reflects the student's academic or professional interests and that demonstrates the student's critical and analytical abilities
- A statement of purpose that includes the following:
 - coursework you plan to complete in the program
 - faculty members with whom you wish to study
 - research you plan to pursue
 - a sense of what you hope to do once you have completed a doctoral degree in English
 - how your education and/or life experience have prepared you for graduate work
- A letter stating the interest in and qualifications for a teaching assistantship.