

# Rhetoric, Theory and Culture

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## Department Information

- **Department Chair:**  
Sean Burt, Ph.D.
- **Graduate Coordinator:**  
Alison Graham-Bertolini, Ph.D.
- **Department Location:**  
318 Minard Hall
- **Department Phone:**  
(701) 231-7143
- **Department Web Site:**  
[www.ndsu.edu/english/graduate/phd\\_rhetoric\\_theory\\_and\\_culture/](http://www.ndsu.edu/english/graduate/phd_rhetoric_theory_and_culture/) ([http://www.ndsu.edu/english/graduate/phd\\_rhetoric\\_theory\\_and\\_culture/](http://www.ndsu.edu/english/graduate/phd_rhetoric_theory_and_culture/))
- **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

To be admitted with full status to the program, the applicant must fulfill all of the requirements set out below.

- In most cases, applicants are expected to have completed a Master of Arts or Science, 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.

Conditional admission may be granted to students who do not meet all requirements for admission or have deficiencies in prerequisite course work, but demonstrate potential for graduate study. Such students may be required to take additional courses to address deficiencies.

In addition to the Graduate School required materials, applications must include:

- 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
- official transcripts from all previous undergraduate and graduate institutions
- a letter stating your interest in and qualifications for a teaching assistantship.

## Financial Assistance

Teaching assistantships are available and awarded based on the applicant's scholastic record and letters of recommendation. Students need to apply to the Graduate College to be considered for admission in the Department of English and before they are eligible for an assistantship. Letters of interest for teaching assistantships, detailing prior experience (if applicable) and qualifications, need to be submitted as part of the application to the program.

Teaching assistantships are reviewed and renewed annually based on academic and professional performance, as well as funding. The annual stipend is \$14,000. In addition to the stipend, graduate assistants receive a graduate tuition waiver. Tuition waivers cover base tuition for NDSU graduate credits only. Students are responsible for differential tuition, student fees, and tuition for non-graduate level credits taken or Cooperative Education credits. Teaching assistants are responsible for books and fees.

In rare cases, teaching fellowships may be granted to advanced doctoral students who have passed their preliminary examinations and completed their course work. Scholarships (<https://www.ndsu.edu/english/contact/opportunities/>) are available through the department, the academic college, the Graduate College, and the university.