Ph.D. in English: Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture

The PhD program requires 90 credits beyond the baccalaureate degree and a minimum of 60 graduate credits taken at NDSU.

A. Core, 12 Credits

English 760: Graduate Scholarship
English 755: Composition Theory
English 762: Critical Theory
English 756: Composition Research

B. Other Research Methods, 3 Credits

Students select, in consultation with their advisor, at least one of the following.

Sociology 700: Qualitative Methods
Sociology 701: Quantitative Methods
History 701: Methods of Historical Research
Communication 704: Qualitative Methods
Communication 767: Rhetorical Criticism

C. Pedagogy, 3 Credits

Students select, in consultation with their advisor, at least one of the following.

English 764: Classroom Strategies for TAs*
English 765: UDW Pedagogy, Practice, & Technology
English 766: Teaching Literature

D. Additional Courses, 21–51 Credits

Students must take English courses that match their research goals and deepen their understanding of the field. Three additional methods or theory courses may be taken from outside the English department, as approved by advisor and graduate director.

English 649: Usability and User X
English 655: International Technical Writing
English 656: Literature, Culture, and Identity
English 659: Research & Writing Grants & Proposals
English 753: Rhet and Poetics of New Media
English 754: Rhet of Science and Technology
English 758: Topics in Rhetoric and Writing
English 759: History of Writing Instruction
English 761: Writing Invention to Innovation
Communication 700: Research Methods
Communication 707: Quantitative Methods in Communication
Communication 782: Theories of Persuasion

Additional English options:

Students with no background in English studies must include courses in literature and linguistics in plan of study; topics and studies courses may be repeated.

English 652: History of English Language
English 653: Social and Regional Varieties of English
English 654: Language Bias
English 671: American Realism
English 672: 20th Century American Writers
English 674: Native American Literature
English 676: Topics in American Literature
English 680: Medieval Literature
English 682: Renaissance Literature
English 683: Topics in British Literature
English 685: 18th Century British Literature
English 686: Romantic Literature
English 770: Studies in American Literature
English 780: Studies in British Literature
English 782: Studies in Irish Literature

E. Experiential Learning, 6 Credits

Flexible credits for English 795: Experiential Learning may be earned in the following ways:

1) Teaching Mentorship (0–6 credits), may be taken twice. Students work with faculty to read theory and co-teach 200-, 300-, or 400-level class.
2) Internship (0–6 credits), may be taken twice. Students work outside or inside academia in administrative, editing, or consulting roles.
3) Life-Experience Credit (0–3 credits). Students submit a writing or teaching portfolio reflecting their professional experience prior to enrolling in the program.

F. Comprehensive Exams**

G. Language Requirement***

H. Dissertation, 15 credits (English 899)

Total: 90 Credits

Notes:

Students must a minimum of 30 credits at the 700- or 800-level.
Students must take 48 of 60 credits at NDSU from within the Department of English.
*English 764: Teaching Strategies is required of all Teaching Assistants who have not taken a similar class elsewhere.
**Comprehensive Exams must be taken prior to the submission of the dissertation proposal.
***Students admitted to the Ph.D. in Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture are required to demonstrate foreign language competency the time the begin to write the dissertation. See the departmental Ph.D. program website for specific requirements: https://www.ndsu.edu/english/phd_degree/