Professional Writing and Editing, B.A.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Arts in Professional Writing and Editing
- Bachelor of Sciences in Scientific and Technical Writing

Students may not earn both a B.A. and a B.S. in Writing Studies.

Nature of the Program

With a BA or BS degree in Writing Studies, you will learn to translate complex information into clear prose for diverse audiences and analyze how information flows through organizational structures. As you apply these skills in a capstone internship with a local business, non-profit, or government agency, you will see your writing come alive.

Regardless of what subjects you're interested in and what careers you're considering post-graduation, the BA degree in Professional Writing and Editing or the BS degree in Scientific and Technical Writing will improve the writing and communication skills that employers value.

When choosing between the BA degree in Professional Writing and Editing or the BS degree in Scientific and Technical Writing, individuals typically consider the path that most closely matches their future plans. The BA degree is well suited to students who are interested in the needs of an increasingly global society and want to make a difference as writers or editors for nonprofits, government agencies, and other professions. The BA's emphasis on rhetorical, cultural, and linguistic competencies also prepares students for advanced academic work in a range of fields, including the humanities and legal studies. The BS degree is well suited to students who have an interest in science, healthcare, or technology and want to pursue professional careers where they convey complex topics clearly to the public. The BS degree also prepares students for the writing and research skills they need for advanced academic work.

Students who earn a degree in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences must complete the University requirements, the College requirements for their specific degree program, and their major requirements. Both the BA in Professional Writing and Editing and the BS in Scientific and Technical Writing are SpeakWrite (https://speakwrite.wvu.edu/) certified programs.

4+1 Option

Qualified students pursuing a BA or BS in Writing Studies may earn up to 12 hours of *graduate credit* during their junior and senior year. These credits can count toward the master's program in Professional Writing and Editing, enabling them to complete their M.A. in one year following their undergraduate degree.

Minors

All students have the possibility of earning one or more minors; follow the link for a list of all available minors and their requirements (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/minors/). Please note that students may not earn a minor in their major field.

Publications

Calliope, a publication of WVU student writing, is sponsored by the Department of English and the English Honorary and Club.

Mountaineer Undergraduate Research Review, publishes outstanding research articles, literature reviews, and policy briefs principally authored by undergraduates of any major at West Virginia University. MURR is a student-led publication housed within the West Virginia University Office of Undergraduate Research.

Resilience is a digital, peer-reviewed journal of the Environmental Humanities. It provides a forum for scholars from across the humanities disciplines to speak to one another about their shared interest in environmental issues and to engage in an evolving conversation about what the humanities contributes to living and thinking sustainably in a world of dwindling resources.

Admissions

- First-Time Freshmen are admitted directly into the major.
- Students transferring from another major at WVU must have a 2.0 GPA in all ENGL classes taken and a 2.0 overall GPA.
- Students transferring from another institution must have a 2.0 GPA in all ENGL classes taken and a 2.0 overall GPA.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS 2024-2025

The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

Major Codes:

B.S. Scientific and Technical Writing = **14F5**

B.A. Professional Writing and Editing = **14F4**

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. **(**http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/**)**

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete WVU General Education Foundations requirements, College B.A. requirements, major requirements, and electives to total a minimum 120 hours. For complete details on these requirements, visit the B.A. Degrees tab on the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/#bachelorofartstext) page.

Departmental Requirements for the B.A. in Professional Writing & Editing

Capstone Requirement: The university requires the successful completion of a Capstone course. Professional Writing & Editing (PWE) majors must complete WRIT 491Ato meet this requirement.

Writing and Communication Requirement: The Professional Writing & Editing Bachelor of Arts students fulfill the Writing and Communication Skills requirement by completing ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 (or ENGL 103), and two additional **SpeakWrite Certified Courses** [TM].

Calculation of GPA in the major: Students must earn a grade of C- or better in all courses that are counted toward the PWE Major Requirements. If a course is repeated, all attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA unless the course is eligible for D/F repeat.

Benchmark Expectations: For details, go to the English Degree Progress tab (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/englishlanguageandliterature/#degreeprogresstext).

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
University Requirements		78
ECAS B.A. Requirements		12
Professional Writing & Editing Major Requirements		30
Total Hours		120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)		
Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8		34
WRIT 191	First-Year Seminar	1
General Electives		43
Total Hours		78

ECAS Bachelor of Arts Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Fine Arts Requirement		
Foreign Language		12
Global Studies and Diversity Requirement		
Total Hours		12

Professional Writing & Editing Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
CORE COURSES		**12**
WRIT 202	Introduction to Writing Studies	
WRIT 301	Writing Theory and Practice	
WRIT 302	Editing	
WRIT 304	Business and Professional Writing	
TOPICAL AREA		**6**
Select two courses related to a specific topical area:		
Editing and Publishing (choose 2 courses)		
WRIT 303	Multimedia Writing	
WRIT 306	Topics in Digital Humanities	
WRIT 402	Publishing	
Creative Writing & Narrative Strategies (choose 2 courses)		
ENGL 214	Creative Writing: Non-Fiction	
ENGL 312	Creative Writing Workshop: Fiction	
ENGL 314	Creative Writing Workshop: Non-Fiction	
Literacy and Language (choose 2 courses)		
ENGL 309	Approaches to Teaching Composition	
ENGL 321	History of the English Language	
WRIT 460	Appalachian Englishes	
UPPER-DIVISION ELECTIVES*		
Select three ENGL or WRIT courses at the 300 level not taken for the Core or Topical requirements		9
WRIT 303	Multimedia Writing	
WRIT 304	Business and Professional Writing	
WRIT 306	Topics in Digital Humanities	
ENGL 309	Approaches to Teaching Composition	
ENGL 312	Creative Writing Workshop: Fiction	
ENGL 314	Creative Writing Workshop: Non-Fiction	
ENGL 321	History of the English Language	
ENGL 329	Topics in English Language	
ENGL 331	Topics in Genre	
ENGL 338	Environmental Criticism	
ENGL 383	Introduction to Cultural Studies	
WRIT 407	The Writing of Health and Medicine	
WRIT 408	Rhetoric and Science	

WRIT 450	Intro to Forensic Linguistics	
WRIT 460	Appalachian Englishes	
CAPSTONE		**3**
WRIT 491A	Professional Field Experience	
Total Hours		30

*Students may select up to 6 credits outside ENGL or WRIT courses with permission from a WRIT Adviser.

Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 101 (F1 Course 1)	3	ENGL 102 (F1 Course 2)	3
Foreign Language 101	3	Foreign Language 102	3
GEF 2	4	GEF 4	3
General Electives	4	ECAS Fine Arts Requirement (F6)	3
WRIT 191	1	General Electives	3
	15		15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
WRIT 304 or 305	3	Foreign Language 204	3
Foreign Language 203	3	ECAS Global Studies and Diversity Requirement (F7)	3
GEF 3	3	GEF 8 (Course 1)	3
GEF 5	3	WRIT 301	3
WRIT 202	3	WRIT 302	3
	15		15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
GEF 8 (Course 2)	3	GEF 8 (Course 3)	3
Topical Area Course 1	3	Topical Area Course 2	3
Upper-Division Elective Course 1	3	Upper-Division Elective Course 2	3
General Elective	6	General Elective	3
		WRIT 491A (Capstone)	3
	15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Upper-Division Elective Course 3	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
	15		15

Total credit hours: 120

Degree Progress

- At the end of their second semester in the program, students will have completed ENGL 101, 102, 199, WRIT 191 and 202.
- After three semesters students will have completed nine additional credits of WRIT courses above WRIT 202.
- After four semesters in the program, students will have completed 12 additional credits in WRIT.
- All majors must meet with an English department advisor each semester.
- All majors must meet with an English department advisor to select electives appropriate for their degree and career interests.

Major Learning Outcomes

PROFESSIONAL WRITING AND EDITING

Upon successful completion of the BA degree in Professional Writing and Editing, majors will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

- Students will identify, understand, and explain the major concepts of Professional Writing and Editing.
- Students will develop rhetorical literacies and apply these to linguistic structures and genre conventions across diverse cultures and contexts.
- Students will develop the functional literacies related to digital and print writing and editing and apply them to contexts and audiences appropriately.
- Students will locate, evaluate, and appropriately apply primary and secondary research materials from a variety of sources (e.g., scholarly and professional sources as well as informal print, visual, or digital sources).
- Students will demonstrate the critical literacies, problem-solving skills, and professional behaviors that make a strong writer and editor across contexts, genres, and media (print, visual, aural, digital).