

communicate

persuade

inspire

analyze

express

SDSU

San Diego State University

The Rhetoric and Writing Studies Major

The Rhetoric and Writing Studies Major at San Diego State University

Rhetoric refers to the study and uses of written, spoken, and visual language in a variety of formats and media. The Rhetoric and Writing Studies major at San Diego State University — the first and only such major in the California State University system and in the San Diego region — aims to produce sophisticated writers and interpreters of texts whose analytical, communicative, and persuasive abilities will meet the demands of almost every twenty-first century profession, including business, law, marketing and advertising, politics, science, education, professional writing and more. The major also provides excellent preparation for graduate-level study in business, law, and a range of disciplines in the humanities and sciences. Students in the major study how persuasion and meaning function in a wide variety of public and professional contexts, learning how to:



- **Communicate** and express ideas effectively;
- **Persuade** and **inspire** diverse audiences;
- **Analyze** and produce information, messages, and arguments in a range of media and technologies;
- **Express** a position clearly and ethically.

The Rhetoric and Writing Studies major is an ideal subject of study to combine with other majors or minors. Its small classes will facilitate meaningful interaction with faculty and it complements virtually any field of study or content area.

The prerequisites for the RWS major consist of the General Education lower division writing requirements (RWS 200) and RWS 250 (Rhetoric in Everyday Life) or RWS 290 (Business Writing and Rhetoric). (RWS 250 also satisfies a General Education requirement in Humanities.) The major is comprised of a minimum of 30 units in RWS. Five core courses (15 units) are required:

RWS 410 Rhetoric and Culture;
RWS 411 Digital Rhetorics **or**
RWS 414 Visual Rhetoric;
RWS 415 Writing Rhetorically: Genre, Audience, and Style **or**
RWS 504 Foundations in Technical and Professional Communication;
RWS 498 Seminar: Writing and Research
RWS 506 Writing Internship

The five remaining courses (15 units) must be selected by students to align with their career goals. Electives, such as RWS 305W (Writing in Various Settings), 500W (Advanced Writing Strategies), or 503W (Professional Writing), can be chosen to satisfy the GWAR, along with the following options:

RWS 360 Rhetoric of Sustainability
RWS 360W The Rhetoric of Board Sports
RWS 390W Writing in Business Settings
RWS 411 Digital Rhetorics (if not taken for the core)
RWS 413 The Rhetoric of Comics
RWS 414 Visual Rhetoric (if not taken for the core)
RWS 415 Writing Rhetorically: Genre, Audience, and Style (if not taken for the core)
RWS 496 Topics in Rhetoric and Writing Studies
RWS 501 Editing
RWS 504 Foundations in Technical and Professional Communication (if not taken for the core)
RWS 507 Professional Communication in Community Organizations
RWS 508W Scientific Writing
RWS 509 Teaching Composition in Secondary Schools
RWS 512 Writing Center Practice, Research, and Theory
RWS 515 UX Writing and Rhetoric
RWS 543 Rhetoric of Visual Composing
RWS 596 Special Topics in Rhetoric and Writing Studies





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For more information, visit our website:
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