

Professional Writing

*Director, Professor D. Hensley
Chair, Professor P. Jordan-Long*

The Professional Writing Department (PWR) offers courses designed to teach students how to write for a wide variety of media: newspapers, magazines, movies, stage plays, online publications, books, and literary quarterlies. All students take a set curriculum of courses in the Professional Writing Department, with supplemental courses taken in English and Media Communications.

PWR majors become freelance writers, staff journalists, public relations writers, screenwriters, editors with magazines or book publishing houses, poets, reviewers and critics, playwrights, novelists, and literary agents. They build portfolios of their published works all four years they are in college, and they complete a practicum involving professional work as a writer or editor. Students are prepared upon graduation with their bachelor of science degree to begin working in the world of publishing or to begin graduate-level studies in English, film, journalism, or creative writing.

The success of the PWR major is based on the diversity of writing courses, the real-world experience of becoming published writers even as students, connections with leading authors and publishers, and training by professors who, themselves, are highly successful authors.

Professional Writing (BS)

The bachelor of science degree with a major in professional writing requires 51-53 hours.

Major Requirements

PWR 101	3	Introduction to Professional Writing
PWR 201	3	Foundations of Professional Writing
PWR 320	4	Writing for Business
PWR 321	3	Writing Commercial Fiction
PWR 343	3	Editing
PWR 393	4	Practicum
*PWR 460	3	Writing Seminar
*PWR 460	3	Writing Seminar
PWR 472	4	Freelance Writing
PWR 493	3	Senior Capstone
ART 156	1	Digital Tools: Photoshop
ART 157	1	Digital Tools: InDesign
ENG 212	4	Critical Approaches to Literature
CNM 115	3	Introduction to Media Writing
CNM 332	3	Layout and Design

*PWR 460 Writing Seminar must be taken twice.

Select *two* of the following, at least one must be an upper-division course:

ENG 230	3	World Literature
ENG 233	3	Literary London
ENG 240	3	American Literature
ENG 250	3	British Literature
ENG 340	4	American Romanticism and Realism
ENG 361	4	Drama
ENG 362	3	Shakespeare
ENG 370	3-4	Selected Topics
ENG 371	4	The Novel
ENG 373	4	Literature of Cultural Diversity
ENG 412	4	Early English Literature
ENG 422	4	Renaissance Literature
ENG 426	4	Restoration and 18th Century Literature
ENG 431	4	Romantic Literature
ENG 441	4	Victorian Literature
ENG 442	4	Modern American Literature
ENG 444	4	Contemporary Literature

Professional Writing Courses

PWR 101 3 hours

Introduction to Professional Writing

An introduction to the fundamentals of becoming a professional writer. Instruction in manuscript formats, core elements of copyright laws, maintaining a writer's journal, creating a publications portfolio, reviewing books, movies, and music. Emphasis on time management, revision and mastering proofreading.

PWR 170 1-4 hours

Selected Topics

A course offered on a subject of interest but not listed as a regular course offering. *May count toward the departmental major.*

PWR 201 3 hours

Foundations of Professional Writing

Instruction in marketing manuscripts, managing finances, diversifying writing material, working with literary agents and negotiating contracts. Also includes presentations on co-authoring and ghostwriting as well as promoting published works. *Prerequisite: PWR 101.*

PWR 270 1-4 hours

Selected Topics

A course offered on a subject of interest but not listed as a regular course offering. *May count toward the departmental major.*

PWR 320 4 hours

Writing for Business

Instruction in the fundamentals of business communication and practice in writing reports, abstracts, proposals, instructions and newsletters. Emphasis on the publishing process of business and technical writing and the essentials of research and data analysis.

PWR 321 3 hours

Writing Commercial Fiction

Focuses on writing and selling short stories, novellas, and novels for mass market readership and sales. Students will be guided through the publication process. *Prerequisites: PWR 101, PWR 201.*

PWR 343 3 hours

Editing

Provides training in editing for newspapers, magazines, e-zines, web sites, and book publishers. *Prerequisites: PWR 101, PWR 201, CNM 115.*

PWR 370 1-4 hours

Selected Topics

A course offered on a subject of interest but not listed as a regular course offering. *May count toward the departmental major.*

PWR 393 1-4 hours
Practicum
Supervised learning involving a first-hand field experience or a project. Generally, one hour of credit is awarded for a minimum of 40 hours of practicum experience. *Prerequisites: PWR 333, PWR 343, PWR 472, CNM 115 and CNM 332.*

PWR 460 3 hours
Writing Seminar
Concentrated instruction in an area of specialized writing. Writers in residence lead classes and writing workshops on such topics as Detective Fiction, Inspirational Writing, Biography, Magazine Features, Screenplays, and Writing for Children and Young Adults. Students may receive credit for approved off-campus experiences such as the Los Angeles Film Studies Program. *Prerequisite: Permission of Chair of Professional Writing Department.*

PWR 470 1-4 hours
Selected Topics
A course offered on a subject of interest but not listed as a regular course offering. *May count toward the departmental major.*

PWR 472 4 hours
Freelance Writing
Experience in the techniques and strategies of freelance writing. Focuses on writing and marketing manuscripts for both religious and secular publications. Students will be required to submit work for publication. *Prerequisites: PWR 101 and instructor permission.*

PWR 493 3 hours
Senior Capstone
Designed as a culminating experience for Professional Writing majors wherein students evaluate the status and goals of their studies in a flexible forum exploring academic and professional issues. Senior projects are refined for submission to the department. *Prerequisite 30 hours in the major. Offered during interterm.*

Notes
