

WRITING STUDIES MAJOR



"I chose the English: Writing Studies major because it allows me to do what I love as a profession. It provides me with a wide range of opportunities to learn about and work inside of my passion."

– Benjamin Habecker '20
English: Writing Studies major

Imagine yourself preparing for a long journey. You seek security at the destination. You also want excitement along the way, and you value the intrigue and challenge of the journey. Writing Studies majors are explorers, sometimes aimed for a particular career, but not always taking the beaten path towards a single destination.

DESCRIPTION

The Writing Studies major presents to you a multitude of routes to venture, from creative pursuits to practical communication challenges to critical examinations that shape public and political culture. This major is not only a highly viable career choice at a time when effective communicators are needed most; it is a scholarly pursuit that will develop the way you experience and interact with the world. Make the most of your journey at Millersville University and become a Writing Studies major.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2015, *Forbes* reported a significant increase in the hiring of recent graduates with English degrees by the tech industry.

In 2012, the National Association of College Employers reported that written communication skills are one of the top three skills employers seek in new college hires.

A 2012 survey by Millennial Branding, a research and management consulting firm that helps companies find and train Generation Y employees, sifted data from more than 100,000 U.S. companies. The results showed that 98 percent of those companies named communication skills as extremely important for new employees.



"All of the classes I have taken for English: Writing Studies so far have already begun to change my writing in a positive way and have opened me up to explore different aspects of my writing. I truly look forward to the years to come in this major."

– Emily Perez '20
English: Writing Studies major

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Business and technical writer, social media writer, corporate blogger, public science writer, grant and proposal writer, copywriter, reviewer, editor, publisher, blogger, English teacher (especially abroad), author, playwright, screenwriter, magazine writer, communications specialist in government and nonprofit agencies.

Areas of Study

Writing Studies majors choose from a range of concentrations that develop professional skills, enhance your creativity and focus your communication with proven rhetorical strategies. Whichever path you choose, you will learn to move audiences with your words.

Creative writing – Create compelling worlds that shape how readers may see their own lives through poetry, short fiction, memoirs and more.

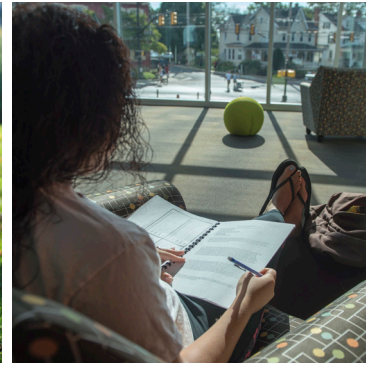
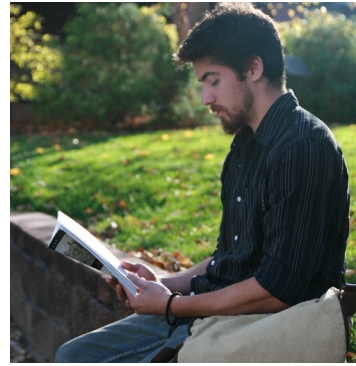
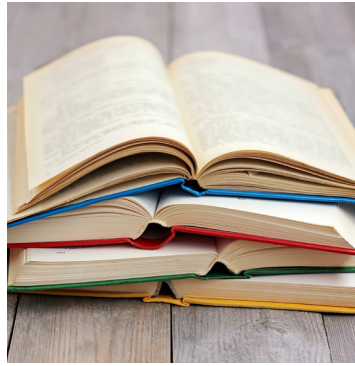
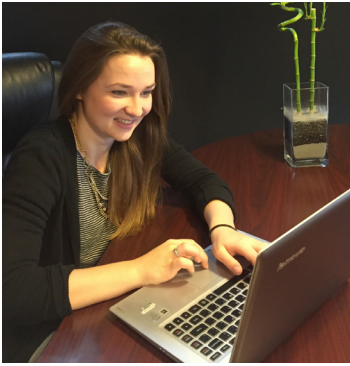
Technical writing – Gain the skills to effectively adapt technical expertise to real-world users in software documentation, instructional guides, grant proposals and more.

Professional writing – Enhance your ability to design texts like cost/benefit analyses, financial reports, and internal and external communication for organizations.

Science writing – Communicate the importance of scientific research to audiences ranging from specialists to policymakers to enthusiasts and beyond.

New media – Reach audiences in new and powerful ways using new methods of communication like web content, Twitter, blogs and future technology.

Journalism – Develop your storytelling, fact-gathering and communication skills through feature writing, editorials, reviews and blogs.



SPECIAL/PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our students participate in diverse internship opportunities, involving newspaper writing, editing, publishing, content writing, social media communication and coordination, and copywriting. Some locations where students have worked:

- *Fly Magazine*, Lancaster
- Community Action Program (CAP)
- The Mix at Arbor Place
- ProspectMX
- Lancaster Newspaper (LNP)
- Allegro Chamber Orchestra
- On-Line Publishers
- The *Ephrata Review/Lititz Record Express*
- *Susquehanna Style* magazine
- *Citizen-Standard* newspaper
- Spruce Alley Press
- Lancaster Literary Guild
- Lancaster Barnstormers
- United Way of Lancaster County

COURSES

- Craft of Writing
- Editing for Publication
- Creative Writing
- Reading and Writing for Civic Change
- Writing Workshop
- Special Topics in Writing Studies
- Writing Studies Seminar
- Technical Writing
- Business Writing
- Digital Portfolio
- Intro to Rhetoric for Writers
- Rhetorical Analysis
- Science Writing
- Web Writing and Content Development

FACULTY

Writing Studies faculty highly value explorations available through and because of writing. As active scholars continuing to explore the broad field of writing, our faculty regularly publish books and articles, present their research at professional conferences, and engage students and colleagues in research, publishing and presentations. As dedicated teachers and caring advisors, the writing studies faculty work with students to explore, determine and reach their educational and career goals.



"Writing makes our world present with open invitations to readers: Learn from our thinking, be motivated by it, perhaps even transformed. Millersville's Writing Studies program enacts this complex, often exquisite, engagement."

– Judy Halden-Sullivan, faculty member

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

There are so many interesting and exciting opportunities for Writing Studies majors:

The Creative Writers' Guild provides an outlet and an audience for sharing creative writing (poetry, prose, short fiction, essay, journal, song, drama, comic and more) for writers at all levels.

The Caffeine House sponsors evenings of performances and readings (poetry, short stories, spoken word and music) of personal works or published authors.

The English Club brings together those with a love of words, drama, poetry, fiction and film to share and critique works, participate in reading and writing circles, and take poetry reading excursions.

The Snapper, Millersville University's student-run newspaper, offers opportunities for writers interested in journalism to gain experience writing, editing and laying out copy.

The Film Club coordinates film screenings and discussions of films and also travels to film festivals across the country.

The George Street Press, the University's literary magazine, offers opportunities to design, compile and edit an annual, professional publication and to submit works of literature and visual art (poetry, short prose fiction, drama, stylistic nonfiction, painting, drawing, digital designs and the like).

The Writing Center provides opportunities for students to work as peer tutors, working with students from generating ideas to revising final papers.



"Technology has given us new ways to communicate, and new audiences to reach. Writing Studies will develop the analytical skills for understanding the world of audiences available to us, as well as the technical and creative skills for crafting one's expression."

– Caleb Corkery, faculty member