The interdisciplinary graduate minor in Literacy and Rhetorical Studies (LRS) offers graduate students opportunities to investigate questions related to writing and literacy with faculty members from disciplines across the University.

Students enrolled in this minor craft individualized programs that will complement their degree programs and open new perspectives for scholarship and teaching. LRS students’ specific literacy-related interests have included (but are not limited to) historical, feminist, and cultural analysis of literacy and rhetoric; theories and practices of writing pedagogy; reading and writing in non-academic settings; and effects of technology on literacy practice.

"Classes in the LRS Minor helped me write a variety of conference papers and publications that helped me appear well rounded to job search committees. At interviews I was able to show how my range of work in the humanities prepared me for teaching in a small department at a liberal arts institution." —Sara Lindey, PhD, English

"One moment that stands above all others for me was my first Research Series presentation... At this event, participants challenged some of my early conclusions and efforts at writing them up at a time when I could hear those responses generously, without defensiveness. This was quite simply the most useful feedback I got on my dissertation research until I started submitting chapters to my advisor nearly a year later." —Tom Friedrich, PhD, Literacy Education

GRADUATE MINORS: A GOOD IDEA

A graduate minor develops specific subfields that support and expand your departmental major. Although the Graduate School does not require students to choose a minor, a minor fulfills the supporting field requirement. When included on a CV or transcript, a minor clearly communicates areas of specialty and expertise.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LRS GRADUATE STUDENTS

LRS graduate students are eligible to present their work in the LRS Research Series alongside LRS faculty, as well as apply for travel funding and summer funding to support dissertation/thesis writing.

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LRS: A CUSTOMIZABLE MINOR

Coursework: three courses for a Master’s Minor, four for a Doctoral Minor, including one course in each of the following areas of literacy and rhetorical studies:

- literacy theory or practice, including pedagogy
- research methods and practices
- historical perspectives

Students select courses from across multiple disciplines to create a customized, coherent program.

Writing Project: A substantial piece of scholarship, such as a seminar paper, a thesis/dissertation chapter, or an article (for both Master’s and Doctoral Minors).

Examples of LRS student programs are available at writing.umn.edu/lrs/students.html

APPLICATION: A SIMPLE PROCESS

For students enrolled in a University of Minnesota graduate degree program, an application to the Minor includes the following items:

- a statement of purpose that explains the relationship of courses and research to professional goals
  (Suggested length: two single-spaced pages)
- a completed one-page application form
- a curriculum vitae
- relevant post-secondary transcripts
- one letter of recommendation

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WRITING.UMN.EDU/LRS