

# LITERACY & RHETORICAL STUDIES

an interdisciplinary  
graduate minor

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.

## 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.

"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

## 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,

"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

## 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](http://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

## CONTACT

Richard Graff

Director of Graduate Studies, LRS Minor

Associate Professor, Department of Writing Studies

[graff013@umn.edu](mailto:graff013@umn.edu)

Kirsten Jamsen

Director, Center for Writing

[kjamsen@umn.edu](mailto:kjamsen@umn.edu)

## LRS MINOR FACULTY

### Communication Studies

Karlyn Kohrs Campbell

David Gore (UMD)

Ronald Greene

Michael Pfau (UMD)

Amy Sheldon

Art Walzer

### Curriculum & Instruction

Martha Bigelow

Kendall King

Timothy Lensmire

Thom Swiss

Diane Tedick

### English

Michael Hancher

Dan Philippon

Geoffrey Sirc

### English, Linguistics, & Writing Studies (UMD)

David Beard

Chongwon Park

Elizabethada Wright

### Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development

Rosemarie Park

### Writing Across the Curriculum

Daniel Emery

Pamela Flash

Matthew Luskey

### Writing Studies

Lee-Ann Kastman Breuch

Patrick Bruch

Richard Graff

Laura Gurak

Kirsten Jamsen

Anne Lazaraton

Amy Lee

Katie Levin

John Logie

Thomas Reynolds

Donald Ross

Jasmine Kar Tang