



**MASTER OF ARTS
ENGLISH, COMMUNICATION,
AND DIGITAL STUDIES**

PURDUE UNIVERSITY®
FORT WAYNE

**Office of
Graduate Studies**

[PFW.EDU/GRADUATE](https://pfw.edu/graduate)

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The **Master of Arts in English, Communication, and Digital Studies** is an interdisciplinary program that explores how language, storytelling, and technology shape culture and communication in the digital age. Combining the critical depth, practical and theoretical insights of English studies and Communication & Media studies, the program prepares students to analyze, create, and innovate across traditional and emerging mediums.

Students engage with literature, rhetoric, media, and digital content to examine how meaning is constructed and conveyed through text, image, sound, and networked discourse. Coursework integrates rhetorical theory, literary analysis, digital communication, and cultural studies to prepare graduates for diverse professional paths in education, publishing, media, corporate communication, and public service—or for doctoral study in related fields. The program fosters ethically, critically, and creatively engaged communicators who bring a humanistic perspective and digital literacy to an ever-changing communicative landscape.

Troy Bassett

English, Communication, and Digital Studies
Graduate Program Director
bassett@pfw.edu
260-481-0152

BENEFITS

LEARN FROM DEDICATED, EXPERT FACULTY

Our faculty deliver a welcoming, supportive, and intellectually rigorous curriculum. As experienced and committed instructors, they examine how language, storytelling, and technology shape culture and communication in the digital age.

Faculty areas of research include:

- 19th and 20th Century British Literature
- Contemporary African American Poetry
- Creative Writing - Fiction, Poetry, and Prose
- Digital Humanities
- Early American Literature
- Health Communication
- Interpersonal, Family, and Intergenerational Communication
- Journalism
- Material and Visual Rhetorics
- Media and Cultural Studies
- Media, Globalization, and Social Media Audiences
- Multimedia Documentary Production
- Native American Literature
- Organizational Communication
- Professional and Technical Writing
- Race, Class, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexuality
- Shakespeare and Early English Literature
- Writing Pedagogy and Study of Teaching and Learning (SOTL)

TAILOR YOUR EDUCATION TO YOUR GOALS

This flexible degree allows you to customize coursework to align with your professional or academic aspirations. By blending the critical depth of English studies with the practical and theoretical strengths of Communication and Digital Studies, you'll develop the skills to analyze, create, and innovate across traditional and emerging media. Through coursework in literature, rhetoric, digital communication, and cultural studies, graduates are prepared for careers in education, media, publishing, corporate and public communication—or for advanced doctoral study.

THE PURDUE FORT WAYNE DIFFERENCE

Stand out with a graduate degree that enhances your qualifications through:

- Small class sizes
- Personal attention from dedicated faculty
- Course offerings designed for working adults
- Internationally recognized degree at a fraction of the cost

COURSES

MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH, COMMUNICATION, AND DIGITAL STUDIES

The master's program prepares you to excel in digital studies, professional communication, writing, education, business, and public service, or to pursue further graduate study in a Ph.D. or MFA program. The program requires 36 credit hours, with 21 elective hours that give you the flexibility to shape the degree around your career goals.

CORE REQUIREMENTS - 6 CREDITS

- **IDIS 50000** Intro to Graduate Studies

One of the following pedagogy courses:

- **COM 50200** Classroom Communication
- **ENGL 50501** Composition: Issues and Critical Approaches

METHODOLOGY - 3 CREDITS

One of the following courses:

- **COM 58200** Descriptive/Experimental Research In Communication
- **COM 58400** Historical/Critical Research In Communication
- **COM 58500** Qualitative Methods In Communication Research
- **ENGL 52502** Research Methods for Professional Writers
- **ENGL 54600** Critical Theory

COMMUNICATION THEORY - 3 CREDITS

One of the following courses:

- **COM 50700** Introduction To Semiotics
- **COM 51200** Theories Of Interpersonal Communication
- **COM 52000** Small Group Communication
- **COM 52100** Theories Of Rhetoric
- **COM 52700** Introduction To Cultural Studies In Communication
- **COM 55900** Current Trends In Mass Communication Research
- **COM 57400** Organizational Communication

ENGLISH THEORY - 3 CREDITS

One of the following courses:

- **ENGL 60101** History Of Rhetoric
- **ENGL 60201** Contemporary Theories Of Composition
- **ENGL 61101** Writing Fiction
- **ENGL 62301** Literacy & Family History Research
- **ENGL 64300** Victorian Literature
- **ENGL 64401** Designing A Poetry Course - Using Poetry For The People
- **ENGL 65300** Major American Writers 1855 To The Present
- **ENGL 68001** Special Topics In Literary Study And Theory
- **ENGL 68002** Special Studies In British And American Literature
- **ENGL 68003** Special Studies In Rhetoric And Composition

ELECTIVES - 21 CREDITS

- Choose up 21 credits of any specialty
- Optional Thesis/Project (6 Credits)

A PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR YOU

Discover recommended program tracks on the next page.

1. Storytelling
2. Historical and Cultural Studies
3. Professional Studies
4. Digital Studies and Content Creation

A PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR YOU

Designed with flexibility in mind, the Master of English, Communication, and Digital Media empowers students to shape a degree that fits their goals. Recommended tracks serve as a starting point, but students can choose up to 21 credits from any specialty and combine courses across tracks to prepare for diverse and evolving career opportunities.

STORYTELLING

- **Three courses in Creative Writing**
 - **ENGL 51101** Writing Fiction
 - **ENGL 51402** Using Poems to Beat Death
 - **ENGL 62301** Literacy & Family History Search
- **Three courses in COM from the following:**
 - **FVS 50200** Genre Study in Film
 - **COM 56000** Rhetorical Dimension of Mass Media
 - **COM 521** Theories of Rhetoric
 - **COM 597** Special Topics

HISTORICAL/CULTURAL STUDIES

- **Three courses in COM from the following:**
 - **COM 52700** Intro to Cultural Studies in Communication
 - **COM 58400** Historical/Critical Research in Communication
 - **COM 51500** Persuasion in Social Movements
 - **COM 521** Theories of Rhetoric
 - **COM 51700** Communication in Politics
- **Three courses in ENGL:**
 - **ENGL 57501** Studies in American Ethnic & Minority Literature & Culture
 - **ENGL 62301** Literacy & Family History Research
 - **ENGL 57301** Studies in Women & Literature

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

- **Three courses in COM from the following:**
 - **COM 51200** Theories of Interpersonal Communication
 - **COM 57400** Organizational Communication
 - **COM 57600** Health Communication
 - **COM 582 or COM 584 or COM 585**
 - **COM 597** Special Topics (when relevant)
 - **COM 51700** Communication in Politics
 - **COM 51800** Theories of Persuasion
- **Three courses in ENGL:**
 - **ENGL 56501** Theories & Practices of Editing
 - **ENGL 56602** Project Management for Writers
 - **ENGL 56700** Writing for Multiple Media

DIGITAL STUDIES & CONTENT CREATION

- **COM 56000** Rhetorical Dimensions of Mass Media
- **FVS 50200** Genre Study in Film
- **COM 59700** Special Topics in Communication
- **ENGL 56700** Writing for Multiple Media
- **ENGL 56602** Project Management for Writers
- **ENGL 58201** Topics in Rhetoric and Composition



APPLICATION DEADLINE

STEPS TO APPLY

Application:

To begin your application create an account through the portal at pfw.edu/grad-apply. Applicants can make and save changes before submitting by logging in with the username and password used to create the account.

Application Fee:

The Graduate School application fee is \$60 (U.S. dollars) for domestic applicants and \$75 (U.S. dollars) for international applicants. Your application will not be processed until your nonrefundable application fee has been paid.

Transcripts:

Through the application portal, you must upload transcript(s) and/or academic document(s) for every institution of higher education you attended regardless of whether or not a degree was received. If a degree was received then it must be printed on the transcripts. If no degree conferral is printed on the transcripts then a copy of the original diploma (degree certificate) is needed. If the documents are not in English, you must upload an English translation certified by the college or university that issued it. For those who have completed degrees in the People's Republic of China, you will also be required to submit the Graduation Certificate.

Statement of Purpose (Essay):

The Academic Statement of Purpose is typically a 500-word statement that outlines:

- Your academic and professional background, detailing how your experiences have prepared you for graduate study in this field.
- Your career goals and how a graduate degree from Purdue Fort Wayne will help you achieve them.
Focus on demonstrating how you fit with the program by discussing faculty members you want to work with, the program's qualities, or specific research or career opportunities.

Personal History Statement:

Approximately 500 words, highlights your unique experiences, challenges, and achievements that have shaped who you are today. This is your chance to share:

- Your personal background, such as your upbringing, or life events that influenced your perspective.
- Why you're a good fit for Purdue Fort Wayne's program beyond academics, emphasizing personal qualities like resilience, leadership, or community engagement.

This statement is your opportunity to stand out and present a compelling narrative about your journey and why you want to earn your graduate degree at Purdue Fort Wayne.

Recommendations:

Submit the name of one individual who is qualified to evaluate your academic or on-the-job performance who can attest to your ability to pursue a graduate degree. In the online application to the Purdue Graduate School, once you click "Send to Recommender," each individual will receive an email with instructions for submitting their recommendation online. Once submitted, the graduate program to which you applied will have access to view your recommendation(s).

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

All international applicants must also submit the following items to be considered for admission:

English Proficiency Scores:

(For exams taken before January 21, 2026)

TOEFL iBT

Overall Score: 80 with the following minimum section requirements:

Reading: 19
Listening: 14
Speaking: 18
Writing: 18

TOEFL Essentials

Overall Score: 8 with the following minimum section requirements:

Reading: 8
Listening: 8
Speaking: 8
Writing: 8

(For exams taken after January 21, 2026)

TOEFL iBT

Overall Score: 4.0 with the following minimum section requirements:

Reading: 4.0
Listening: 3.5
Speaking: 3.5
Writing: 4.0

TOEFL Essentials

Overall Score: 8 with the following minimum section requirements:

Reading: 8
Listening: 8
Speaking: 8
Writing: 8

IELTS

Overall Score: 6.5 with the following minimum section requirements:

Reading: 6.5
Listening: 6.0
Speaking: 6.0
Writing: 5.5

Duolingo English Test

Overall Score: 115 with the following minimum section requirements:

Literacy: 115
Comprehension: 115
Conversation: 115
Production: 115

ELS- Certificate

Level 112

Waiver of English Proficiency Scores

Routine waivers of an English Proficiency exam are granted for applicants that meet an alternate criterion:

- Earned a Baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree within the last 36 months prior to the time of recommendation for admission - from a school where English is the primary language of instruction, in a country where English is the native language.
- Citizen of official English-speaking country

Note: Some graduate programs may still require a test of English proficiency, please confirm the acceptance of the waiver with your department.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

**You must provide official transcripts and/or academic records at the request of the graduate program or if you are admitted and choose to enroll.
An official transcript bears the original signature of the registrar and/or the original seal of the issuing institution.**

An unofficial transcript printed from your current/previous institution(s) student system is not an acceptable document.

Official documents should be submitted to:

**Purdue University Fort Wayne
Office of Graduate Studies
Doermer School of Business Room 304 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499, USA**

Domestic transcripts, including transcripts from other Purdue Universities, must be sent directly from a Registrar's office to the Office of Graduate Admissions via mail or email (graduate@pfw.edu). If you mail them yourself, it must be in an envelope sealed by the registrar.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY®
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260-481-6111
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SCAN CODE TO APPLY

