

ILLINOIS STATE
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Graduate School

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TO: Susan Kalter, Chairperson, Academic Senate

FROM: Denise Wilson, Chair, Graduate Curriculum Committee

RE: Executive Summary – Proposal from the Department of English for Deletion of the Master's Degree in Writing, the Professional Writing and Rhetorics Sequence, and the Teaching of Writing Sequence

The Graduate Curriculum Committee approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached proposal for Deletion of the Master's Degree in Writing and the two sequences within the program – the Professional Writing and Rhetorics Sequence and the Teaching of Writing Sequence.

The Department of English provided the following rationale for the deletion of the program and an explanation of the expected effect the proposed program deletion will have:

- The program has seen very low enrollments for at least a decade or more and the degree overlaps in certain ways with the already existing Master's Degree in English. The numbers do not support the costs of the Program and they are able to roll the Program into the other English Master's offering.
- The two sequences in the Master's Degree in Writing will be rolled into advisement tracks in the already existing Master's Degree in English. The changes are internal to the English Department and affect no other programs on Campus.
- Students already enrolled in the program will be allowed to graduate with the degree. Starting with the 2015 admissions cycle, no new applications will be accepted. The courses offered in fulfillment of the Master's in Writing are offered for other degrees as well. Since the number of Master's in Writing students was never robust for those courses, the impact on course offerings is very slim, especially since the technical writing focus will remain in the graduate programs in English within the already-existing Master's Degree in English. Therefore the faculty who teach in the area of technical writing will still teach the same number of courses in their specialization with the same number of students.
- The effects should be salubrious overall, since the costs of maintaining a program in which enrollments were not good will no longer require funding.

The Graduate Curriculum Committee supports the proposal for deletion of the Masters in Writing degree and its sequences.

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Attachments