

MSU Professional Writing Media Release

EAST LANSING – There is a new and exciting major for aspiring writers at Michigan State University, and no, it actually isn't English or Journalism. Professional Writing, a major within the College of Arts and Letters, is a program that is still in its infancy and growing every year.

Developed in 2001 and launched in 2004, Professional Writing is one of the "younger" majors in the university, but it is growing as more and more students seek the unique structure of the major, which aims to educate students not only to learn skills in writing, but skills in adapting writing styles for different jobs, creating portfolios for future employment, and helping in the search for jobs and internships.

Director of Professional Writing Dànielle Nicole DeVoss refers to writing at MSU as a "triangle" which includes Journalism, English, and Professional Writing. She speaks highly of MSU's English and Journalism programs, but stresses the versatility Professional Writing can offer: "We encourage students to work across a range of genres and media so they're not just good at writing a *type* of document, but are great at having a flexible skillset in writing that transcends different genres, documents, and audiences."

While most understand and relate to the "writing" part of Professional Writing, the "professional" part is just as important here, as professors and advanced graduate students guide students to become effective communicators in all forms of communication, whether it be written, visual, audio, or any combination of the three. Three different tracks are offered to guide students to their interests such as writing in communities, editing and publishing, or digital writing. Electives and cognates in other concentrations help to round out a Professional Writer's experience and develop them into a multitalented writer. "Professional writers can efficiently communicate both on-screen and in print through writing, design, and style, and have the ability to thoughtfully support their decisions and methods through clear and concise interpretations and explanations," said Marissa Hayes, a 2008 Professional Writing graduate.

For more information on the Professional Writing program at Michigan State University, please contact either Director Dànielle Nicole DeVoss at devossda@msu.edu Or Director Laura Julier at julier@msu.edu.