



 DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Welcome to



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

WRD

WRITING RHETORIC & DISCOURSE



We're glad you're here.

This welcome packet describes some of the main tools, resources, and knowledge you will need during your time in the program and at DePaul. Explore more university resources on the [WRD Blog](#).



Our Classrooms

Most, but not all graduate classes meet in the Schmitt Academic Center (SAC, pronounced “sack”), and the WRD main office (SAC 350) and faculty offices are there, too.



MA in WRD Student Handbook

The [MA in WRD Student Handbook](#) can address many FAQs about the program, including program policies, curriculum requirements, and financial aid opportunities. Read through the handbook to familiarize yourself with the program and develop any advising questions you may have.



Campus Connect

[Campus Connect](#) is the web portal that DePaul uses for most official business, from registration to parking passes. If you have not yet, be sure to log in there and explore a bit.



Desire 2 Learn (D2L)

[Desire to Learn \(D2L\)](#) is the learning management system that DePaul uses, and most professors will use it for course materials. Your professors may not activate their courses until the course begins. Or, look for an email from your professors.

Your WRD Advisor



Soon, you will receive an email from your newly assigned WRD faculty advisor. You can find the name of your advisor in the “Student Center” area of Campus Connect. Please set up an initial introductory meeting with them to answer any questions you may have regarding the curriculum, department, or professional goals. With your faculty advisor, you may begin to think about the range of concentrations and certificates that you can pursue to make the most of your time in the program.

If you are planning a meeting with your advisor, it may be helpful to complete the [Degree Planning Worksheet](#) for the MA in WRD Degree. This sheet can help you plan what course you have and want to take.

Portfolio Requirement

All MAWRD students compose both a Mid-Program Portfolio and a Professional Portfolio as a resource to track significant accomplishments and skills developed throughout the program. In addition to guidance from a WRD advisor, the department will offer [resources and guidelines](#) for the creation of the ePortfolios. Additional resources can be found on the [WRD Blog](#).



Concentrations & Certificates

With the option to concentrate in Professional & Digital Writing or Teaching Writing & Language, you’ll develop lifelong skills that are invaluable to a range of careers. Enhance your degree with graduate certificates in [Teaching English as a Second Language \(TESOL\)](#), [Strategic Writing and Advancement for Nonprofits Graduate Certificate \(SWAN\)](#), and [Teaching English in Two-Year Colleges](#).



Social Media

Join our online community! Like and follow the department's [Facebook page](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Graduate students and can also join the private MA in WRD [Facebook group](#). On our social media, we keep past, current, and future WRD students up-to-date with department news, professional development opportunities, and additional updates that can enhance your student experience.



The WRD Blog

Take a closer look at the fantastic resources and blog posts posted weekly on the department blog wrdblog.org. Curated by WRD graduate students, the WRD Blog is your source for updates on student and faculty accomplishments, alumni news, professional development opportunities, and course offerings.



Invention Lab

Study and collaborate in our Invention Lab (SAC 302). Staffed by WRD graduate assistants, the Invention Lab offers a comfortable space to work among your peers. The Invention Lab is open Monday through Thursday from 11 am to 6 pm. Quarterly events and gatherings also take place in the Invention Lab!



Share Your News!

The WRD Department has launched a [survey](#) for students to share their recent and upcoming accomplishments, including performances, event participation, job/internship updates, and any additional news. Please fill out this [survey](#) if you have something you would like to share with the WRD community!

Department Events

Throughout the year, the WRD Department hosts events so students can socialize, network, and learn beyond the classroom. Keep an eye on social media for updates on these events:

- Quarterly speaker series events where we welcome writing studies scholars to the university to host workshops and talks
- [First-Year Program Writing Showcase](#) that highlights student projects completed in first-year program classes
- End-of-the-year celebration to commemorate our accomplishments for the year and induct WRD students into Pi Epsilon Pi National Honors Writing Society
- And more!

Again, welcome to the WRD Department—we hope you will take advantage of all our community of students, faculty, and staff has to offer.

Antonio Ceraso
Department Chair
aceraso@depaul.edu

Jason Kalin
Director of MA in WRD
jkalin@depaul.edu

Exal Iraheta
Department Assistant
eiraheta@depaul.edu