

**UMBC UGC PROGRAM CHANGES & OTHER REQUESTS:** Department of English

Date Submitted: 9/1/2017

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2018

Dept Chair	Orianne Smith	<a href="mailto:osmith@umbc.edu">osmith@umbc.edu</a>	5-2138
Other Contacts	Deborah Rudacille Director (proposed)	<a href="mailto:rdeborah@umbc.edu">rdeborah@umbc.edu</a>	5-2052

**Specifics: Proposed Minor in Science Writing (18 credits)**

To earn the minor in Science Writing, students must complete 18 credits of coursework, divided as follows:

**CORE (12 credits)**

ENGL291 Introduction to Writing Creative Essays  
ENGL317 Literature and the Sciences  
ENGL383 Science Writing  
HIST100 Human Context of Science or HIST446 History of Science Since 1700

**ELECTIVES (6 credits)**

ANTH312 Medical Anthropology

BIOL123 Genetics (or BIOL 302)

ENES251 Ethical Issues in Science, Engineering and Information Technology

ENGL220 Composing Disability  
ENGL384 Topics in Journalism  
ENGL379 Principles and Practices of Technical Communication  
ENGL385 New Media and Digital Literacies  
ENGL387 Web Design and Multi-Media Authoring  
ENGL398 Internship in Journalism  
ENGL419 Seminar in Literature and the Sciences  
ENGL483 Writing in the Sciences  
ENGL495 Internship

HAPP329 Geography of Disease and Health

HIST350 History of Medicine

PHIL358 Bioethics  
PHIL372 Philosophy of Science

PHYS105 Ideas in Astronomy  
PHYS106 Intro to Astrobiology

PSYC230 Psych and Culture  
PSYC285 Abnormal Psychology

\*Upper level courses often have a prerequisite of one introductory course in that discipline with a grade of C or better. Students should check department requirements.

\*A maximum of two courses may count toward both the student's major and this minor in consultation with minor advisor.

\*Students may petition the Director to accept a relevant course not listed here as an elective.

\*AP credits cannot be used toward the minor.

### **Rationale:**

The proposed minor in science writing is a program of study that approaches the sciences by viewing them from a humanities perspective. Students will read literature that illustrates the role of science in helping to shape culture, and will analyze the ethical and social dimensions of scientific achievement. Writing and media courses offer a core designed to develop and polish students' ability to understand and communicate scientific information. In addition to the GEP core science courses all students present for the GEP requirement, students will for this minor be asked to include two electives from a variety of scientific and humanities fields. These courses will prepare students to cover research as journalists or public information officers for universities, government agencies, scientific societies or non-profit foundations. More broadly, the minor will foster an understanding of the symbiotic relationship between the sciences and the humanities in defining what it means to be human. By engaging students in the study of scientific endeavor as a human activity, we address the fact that neither the sciences nor the humanities alone are sufficient to approach the challenges we face as a species and as stewards of the natural world.

Specific objectives include the following:

1. To fulfill university goals of more interdisciplinary research and teaching & interaction between STEM and humanities majors.
2. To expand career options & prepare students for graduate studies.
3. To increase enrollment in ENGL (particularly CT track) courses by stimulating interest in students from other departments.

4. To create a niche for UMBC as the only local university offering a science writing minor (and perhaps some day, a science writing major).

We recognize that changes may occur in various departmental curricula. For this reason we have provided a rich selection of proposed electives and confirmed via department chairs that science writing minors will be welcome in those courses and that they are offered regularly. In the case of the English department, with the addition of new faculty who are equipped to teach courses in the minor, we feel that despite any departmental changes in faculty or course offerings, science writing minors will still have sufficient support and choice. Also, our by-laws (see attached) ensure a multi-departmental faculty board and slate of advisors who can assist students meet requirements and also monitor changes in course offerings.

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5/3/17

**UMBC  
SCIENCE WRITING MINOR  
BYLAWS**

**I. Director** The Advisory Board of the Minor will elect a director from the Department of English for a term of 2 years. The Director may hold no more than three consecutive terms. The Director will convene semiannual meetings of Affiliated faculty, act as a liaison between the different departments contributing to the minor, advise students from the minor, and certify that students who have met the minor's requirements will receive credit for the minor. In the last semester of the Director's final term, nominations for a new Director must be submitted to the Advisory Board a week before the vote.

**II. Advisement** The Director will advise minor students with assistance from other members of the English department. The Director will also appoint from the Advisory Board a faculty member from a different department to share advisement responsibilities. These Advisors will cover advisement during winter and summer breaks.

**III. Advisory Board** The interdepartmental Advisory Board will consist of five faculty members, the majority of whom are full time; the Board will include the Director, who is ex-officio a voting member. The Director will appoint the five Advisory Board members. Advisory Board members will hold 2-year terms; to form the first Board, however, the Director will appoint 2 or 3 members of the faculty to 3-year terms in order to insure that future Boards always contain experienced members. The departments represented on the Board will be English, History, and one department from CNMS or COEIT. Interdisciplinary Studies should also be represented whenever possible. Three of the five Board members must have different departmental affiliations. The Director and the Board will have broad oversight over the minor, including such issues as changes to the minor, approval of courses to be counted towards the minor, and approval of new courses not in an existing department. The Advisory Board will vote on such changes before they are submitted to the UGC and Faculty Senate for approval.

**IV. Affiliate Faculty** The Advisory Board shall welcome as Affiliate Faculty those UMBC faculty with research and/or teaching interests in science writing.

**V. Science Writing Minor Meetings** Two meetings will be convened each year for Science Writing Affiliate faculty: one in the fall, and one in the spring. In addition, the Advisory Board will meet once each semester.

**VI. Changes to Bylaws.** Bylaws can be changed only by a majority vote of the Advisory Board.

**VII. Review of the Science Writing Minor.** The English Department will perform an annual review of the program, assessing the number of students enrolled, types of courses offered and range of departments involved, and the number of students who complete the minor.

**Chair, English Department**

Rm. 423, Performing Arts & Humanities Building  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, Maryland 21250

PHONE: 410-455-2384

FAX: 410-455-1030

VOICE/TTY: 410-455-3233

WEB: [www.umbc.edu/english/](http://www.umbc.edu/english/)

To: Ms. Deborah Rudacille  
Professor of the Practice, English

From: Orianne Smith  
Chair, English

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Date: August 18, 2017

Re: Proposed Interdisciplinary Minor in Science Writing

This proposed Minor in Science Writing was vetted and approved by the Department of English in Spring 2017.

The English Department sees this as a wonderful opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration between English and other departments across the university, bringing together scientists, social scientists, literary scholars, journalists, philosophers, historians and others to give our students the skill sets to articulate in writing issues about science and technology that shape modern life. We envision students benefiting from this minor in a very practical way: possibly becoming science writers themselves or, more generally, using the research methodologies and writing practices that they'll acquire to think through and write about the relationship between the sciences and the humanities in their chosen field of study. We hope too that this minor will attract students from the STEM disciplines, who may consider a double major with English as their second major. From a curricular standpoint, this minor will encourage faculty in English to think about ways in which their own research/areas of specialization can be brought to bear in courses on the relationship between science and literature, rhetoric and composition studies. English has courses on the books already like ENGL 317, Literature and Sciences, and ENGL 220, Composing Disability, that can be taught by many of our faculty in English.

The proposed Minor in Science Writing dovetails with the university's commitment to interdisciplinary work and will enable important conversations across disciplinary divides on the question of what it means to be human. The English Department enthusiastically endorses this exciting new minor for our students at UMBC.



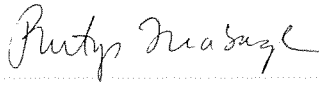
AN HONORS UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND  
Department of Biological Sciences

University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, MD 21250

Philip Farabaugh  
PHONE: 410-455-3018  
FAX: 410-455-3875  
E-mail: farabaug@umbc.edu

## Memo

To: Ms. Deborah Rudacille  
Professor of the Practice, Department of English

From: Dr. Philip Farabaugh   
Chair, Department of Biological Sciences

Date: July 11, 2017

Subject: Proposed Minor in Science Writing

It has been a pleasure working with you and Robin Farabaugh on this proposed Minor program. As you know, I am very aware of the importance of writing in science and in the need to provide the best training to our undergraduates who would like to follow your example and embark on a career writing about science. I believe that the Minor as presently configured will greatly help many students to become the kind of writers that can make a difference in society.

This planned Minor dovetails very well with our current BA in Biological Sciences. That program was explicitly created with the aim of encouraging students to add study in one or more other fields to diversify their education. This program is being marketed to pre-medical students with the understanding that schools of medicine seek students with diverse backgrounds in education. However, the degree is intended for any student who is not planning on pursuing a career in scientific research. I had thought that the program would be attractive to those wishing to combine the science of biology with visual or performing arts, for example, but the idea of training for a career in science writing is equally appropriate in my mind.

You have the full support of the Department of Biological Sciences in your plans for this Minor and we hope to see many of our BA students combine this program with their major program.



UMBC Mail - Letter of Support for Science Writing minor

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## Letter of Support for Science Writing minor

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Amy Froide <froide@umbc.edu>

Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 1:45 PM

To: Deborah Rudacille <rdeborah@umbc.edu>, Robin Farabaugh <rfarabau@umbc.edu>

To the UGC,

I am writing this letter of support for the proposed science writing minor in my capacity as Acting Chair of the History department. I have been involved in the planning and discussion of this minor for the past year and very much support it's addition to the UMBC curriculum. A science writing minor is exactly the type of interdisciplinary program that we should be offering our students. It is a niche that will assist students in using their humanistic writing and analytical skills to find work in STEM fields. As a minor that blends STEM and the Humanities it is particularly well suited to UMBC's mission. The History department will be contributing to this minor through courses in the History of Science and courses in HCST (Human Context of Science and Technology). We also have faculty interested in being involved in the minor, such as myself, Kate Brown, and Eric Brown.

Sincerely,

Amy M. Froide, Professor and Acting Chair of History

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Amy M. Froide

Professor and Acting Chair of History

Affiliate Faculty, Gender and Women's Studies &  
Language, Literacy, and Culture Ph.D. program

UMBC  
History Department (Fine Arts Bldg. room 513)  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, MD 21250  
410-455-2032

Now Available: *Silent Partners: Women as Public Investors during Britain's Financial Revolution, 1690-1750* (Oxford University Press, 2016).



Deborah Rudacille <rdeborah@umbc.edu>

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## Re: Science Writing Minor

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**Christopher Murphy** <chmurphy@umbc.edu>  
To: Robin Farabaugh <robinfarabaugh@gmail.com>  
Cc: Deborah Rudacille <rdeborah@umbc.edu>

Thu, Jul 6, 2017 at 11:05 PM

Hi Robin:

I am happy to provide Psychology Department support for the use of the courses listed below as electives for the minor in Science Writing, and I wish you all the best in organizing this exciting new program.

Christopher M. Murphy, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Psychology  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, MD 21250  
(410) 455-2367

[Quoted text hidden]



[Deborah Rudacille <rdeborah@umbc.edu>](mailto:rdeborah@umbc.edu)

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**Re: Science Writing Minor**

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**Michael Hayden** <hayden@umbc.edu>

Thu, Jul 6, 2017 at 12:21 PM

To: Robin Farabaugh &lt;robinfarabaugh@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: Deborah Rudacille &lt;rdeborah@umbc.edu&gt;

Dear Robin,

I am happy to hear you will be offering a minor in Science Writing. I see that you are planning on listing PHYS 105 and 106 as possible electives for that minor. We will be happy to have those students in our courses. PHYS 105 and 106 are offered every semester, so it should be easy for the students taking the Science Writing minor to work these courses into their schedules.

Good luck,

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Michael Hayden  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Physics, UMBC  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, MD 21250  
410-455-3199  
410-455-1072 fax

<http://physics.umbc.edu/~hayden/polymers.html>

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(to view this email in your browser)

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## Proposed Science Writing Minor

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**J Kevin Eckert** <eckert@umbc.edu>

Wed, Jun 28, 2017 at 10:43 AM

To: Deborah Rudacille <rdeborah@umbc.edu>

Cc: Sarah Chard <schard@umbc.edu>

Deborah,

We plan to offer Anth 312 Medical Anthropology at least every 2-3 semesters.

Science writing minors who have the pre-req (Socy 101 or Anth 211) would be welcome in the course.

Please note that the other course on the list, HAPP 329 Geography of Health and Disease is "owned" by GES - it is cross-listed with HAPP. Decisions surrounding that course would reside with GES.

Best,  
Kevin

[Quoted text hidden]

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J. Kevin Eckert, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair  
Sociology, Anthropology, and Health Administration & Policy, UMBC  
Professor (secondary), Epidemiology and Public Health, Medicine, UMB  
410-455-5698



University of Maryland Baltimore

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## Proposed science writing minor

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**Alan Yeakley** <yeakley@umbc.edu>

Fri, Jul 21, 2017 at 10:53 PM

To: Deborah Rudacille &lt;rdeborah@umbc.edu&gt;

Cc: Robin Farabaugh &lt;robinfarabaugh@gmail.com&gt;, Dawn Biehler &lt;dbiehler@umbc.edu&gt;

Dear Deborah,

Thank you for your note and sorry for the delay in responding. I'm presently in Oregon moving my family across country to Maryland, so am not very close to email this month.

I conferred with GES faculty member Dawn Biehler (cc'd) who teaches the GES 329 course Geography of Disease and Health. As a new member of the GES department, it threw me a bit that the course was listed as HAPP 329 rather than GES 329. Dawn confirmed that it is really a GES course, with a HAPP cross-listed version, and so in your proposal I'd like to suggest that it be listed that way, with a GES label (or perhaps it could be listed as GES/HAPP 329, but either way the GES label should be first as it's taught regularly by a GES faculty member, not a HAPP faculty member).

I will defer to Dawn Biehler to make a final call on whether it would be okay to have science writing minor students in this class. From my point of view it sounds like a positive aspect, as long as the number of such students are not large enough to preclude some GES majors from taking the course (due to reaching capacity in the class).

In general we do welcome the idea of a science writing minor at UMBC, and so applaud your efforts!

All the best,  
Alan Yeakley

[Quoted text hidden]

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Alan Yeakley  
Professor and Chair  
Dept of Geography & Environmental Systems  
University of Maryland Baltimore County  
Baltimore, MD 21250 USA  
Phone: 410-455-3955  
Email: yeakley@umbc.edu

[Deborah Rudacille <rdeborah@umbc.edu>](#)

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## Science Writing Minor

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Steve Yalowitz <yalowitz@umbc.edu>  
To: Deborah Rudacille <rdeborah@umbc.edu>

Thu, Jun 22, 2017 at 10:45 PM

Hi Deborah,

Please see the email to Robin forwarded below.

Best,  
Steve

Begin forwarded message:

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**From:** Robin Farabaugh <robinfarabaugh@gmail.com>  
**Date:** June 1, 2017 at 11:40:40 AM EDT  
**To:** Steve Yalowitz <yalowitz@umbc.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Science Writing Minor

Thanks, Steve, for this, and for your support.  
Robin

On Jun 1, 2017, at 11:33 AM, Steve Yalowitz <yalowitz@umbc.edu> wrote:

Hi Robin,

Thanks for your note. As we discussed earlier in the Spring, we'd be happy to have science writing minors in PHIL 372 and PHIL 358. PHIL 372 is offered at least once every two years, and we try to offer PHIL 358 every two years, but it is dependent on available staffing and so sometimes doesn't get taught more than every once every three years (it is being taught in Summer 2017).

Best,  
Steve

On Jun 1, 2017, at 11:13 AM, Robin Farabaugh  
<robinfarabaugh@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Steve,

For the past year, Deborah Rudacille and I have been working together to develop a science writing minor based in the English Department. The proposal -- appended to this email -- was approved by the department at our May faculty meeting. Our next step is forwarding the proposal to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

As part of the UCG package we require letters (or emails) from the chairs of all departments whose courses we intend to offer as electives -- and that includes Philosophy 358 and 372.

Could we please trouble you for a brief note affirming that the course or courses in your department are offered regularly and that you would welcome science writing minor students in those classes? An email would be perfect.

We would like to begin offering the minor in Fall 2018 and hope to have the proposal reviewed at the next UCG meeting.

Best regards,

Robin Farabaugh

Senior Lecturer, English

<Science Writing Minor 4-21-17.docx>



Deborah Rudacille <rdeborah@umbc.edu>

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## Advisory Board for Science Writing Minor

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Philip Farabaugh <farabaug@umbc.edu>  
To: Deborah Rudacille <rdeborah@umbc.edu>

Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 11:56 AM

Deborah,

Thanks for the note and the invitation to serve on the Advisory Board for the proposed minor in Science Writing. I've been happy to provide help in your process of developing the plan for the minor and I see it as an opportunity especially for our BIOL BA students who are pursuing a degree that was designed with the idea of their supplementing their training in the science with training in other fields in order to broaden their perspective about how they could use their education after graduation. Their being trained in writing about science is precisely the kind of thing my faculty were hoping would be available to them. I applaud your efforts to make this happen.

Phil

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Philip Farabaugh  
Professor & Chair  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of Maryland Baltimore County  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, MD 21250  
Office: +1-410-455-3018  
Lab: +1-410-455-2659  
Webpage: <http://bit.ly/farabaugh>  
[Quoted text hidden]



Deborah Rudacille <rdeborah@umbc.edu>

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## Advisory Board for Science Writing Minor

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**Jody Shipka** <shipka@umbc.edu>  
To: Deborah Rudacille <rdeborah@umbc.edu>  
Cc: Robin Farabaugh <robinfarabaugh@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 11:55 AM

Absolutely! Put my name down. I'm happy to serve!

Happy remainder of the summer,  
jody

[Quoted text hidden]

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Jody Shipka, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of English  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, MD 21250

website: [www.remediatethis.com](http://www.remediatethis.com)