

MAWRD | Advising Notes | SQ2026

In this document you will find course descriptions for Spring Quarter 2026, including WRD courses and courses in other programs that can be used toward the SWAN or TESOL certificate. The course cart is open, and registration begins **Feb. 5**. To view your specific enrollment date and time, you should visit Campus Connect > Manage Classes > Enrollment Dates. You can also check for and take care of holds, to-do items, and warnings that can delay registration by clicking on the Tasks tile in Campus Connect.

Do not wait until after your assigned registration window: classes may fill quickly. If you delay registration, you may be shut out of a course that you want. We will adhere to the [waitlist policy](#), which states that students are enrolled based on the order of the list. Students from other degree programs can also register for WRD courses, so any delay can put you low on the waitlist. If you have a registration block, please let me know ASAP so that we can work to resolve that before registration begins.

As you plan for SQ2026, make sure you are checking your course choices against your Degree Progress Report (DPR), including the appropriate concentration and certificate credits. You are responsible for the requirements included in your DPR. If you have concerns about the way something appears on your DPR, please alert me as soon as possible. To view your DPR, go to Campus Connect > Academic Progress > Degree Progress > Run Report.

Spring Quarter 2026 begins on **March 30** and ends on **June 12**. Here are the [academic calendar](#), [schedule of classes](#), and [course modalities](#).

Following the information about Spring Quarter classes you will find other important resources and reminders.

MAWRD | Course Descriptions | SQ2026

WRD 515 The Essay

Wednesday 6:00 – 9:15 PM | Lincoln Park Campus (LPC) | On-Campus

Julie Bokser

Requirement fulfilled: Rhetoric & Discourse

In this course we'll study *the essay*: what it is and has been, and how we read and write essays now. We'll situate the essay historically and within relevant disciplines, and focus on the contemporary essay. We will read essays alongside theory on essay form and style. Most important, you will write essays, largely on topics you choose. This class is a space where you can think in depth about your own writing style and goals, and explore your intellectual interests through the essay form. We will discuss writing and create a supportive workshop environment, and use models and theoretical readings to inform our writing, discussions, and activities. Readings will include essayists like Joan Didion, John McPhee, Zadie Smith, Nikole Hannah-Jones, and John Jeremiah Sullivan.

WRD 531 Digital Storytelling

Monday 6:00 PM - 9:15 PM | Lincoln Park Campus (LPC) | On-Campus plus Zoom

Lisa Dush

Requirement fulfilled: Professional & Digital Writing

In this course, you will learn how to craft short, experience-based narratives with digital media and circulate these narratives for organizational and community-building purposes. Much of our work will center on two major creative production projects: a personal digital video story and an online profile about a person you interview. Along with this creative work, we will watch, listen to, and read stories created by organizations and movements, and engage with ideas about digital storytelling from scholars and practitioners. Overall, WRD 531 will enable you to conceptualize and execute digital storytelling projects in both personal and professional contexts.

WRD 541 Composition Theory

Tuesday 6:00 PM - 9:15 PM | Lincoln Park Campus (LPC) | On-Campus Hybrid

On campus dates: 3/31, 4/14, 4/28, 5/12, 5/26; Synchronous Zoom dates: 4/7, 4/21, 5/5, 5/19, 6/2

Erin Workman

Requirement fulfilled: Teaching Writing & Language

In this course we will explore theories of composition, engaging history and research to trace how conceptions of writing and writing processes have evolved over the last century. While we will consider pedagogy, our focus will be on how writing functions socially, rhetorically, and materially to help us (re)negotiate our identities, make and share knowledge, connect with others, navigate and reshape institutions, and enact social change. We will play with different writing technologies, processes, practices, media, and materials and engage in hands-on individual and collaborative composing.

WRD590/591 Internship

Arranged

Requirement fulfilled: Professional & Digital Writing/Teaching Writing & Language

Internship opportunities that coincide with your role as an MAWRD student are eligible for course credit with WRD 590 or WRD 591. Students with a Professional and Digital Writing concentration are strongly encouraged to complete an internship during their degree. For a complete explanation of internship guidelines, visit the WRD website. Contact MAWRD Director Jason Schneider with questions: jason.schneider@depaul.edu.

MAWRD | Certificates | non-WRD Courses

Strategic Writing and Advancement for Nonprofits (SWAN)

Contact Professor Lisa Dush, the SWAN Certificate Coordinator (ldush@depaul.edu), for more information about these course offerings.

MPS 524 The Business of Philanthropy

Monday 5:45 PM - 9:00 PM | Loop | [Online Sync-Classroom Link](#)

Lisa Dietlin

SWAN (Elective)

This course provides a broad understanding of the business of philanthropy including the marketing of nonprofit, governmental, and advocacy organizations as well as the role of social entrepreneurship. Content includes the key theories, principles, and techniques of marketing and the differences between for-profit and nonprofit efforts. Students learn how to analyze and develop a wide range of plans and campaigns. Public relations, communications, advertising, and fundraising are explored, explained and compared between nonprofit and for-profit corporations. Students will also learn aspects of the marketing process from identifying and defining the preferred target segments, crafting the key messages, and developing, executing, and measuring effective marketing campaigns exploring best practices in business.

MPS 546 Advocacy and Lobbying

Thursday 5:45 PM - 9:00 PM | Loop | [Online Sync-Classroom Link](#)

Lisa Dietlin

SWAN (Elective)

Explores the roles of individuals and organizations in the public policy process, particularly as power arrangements facilitate or impede consensus building. Examines how legislation is written and how administrative rules are formed in government agencies. Special attention is paid to advocacy techniques such as lobbying, public education, and litigation.

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

Contact Professor Jason Schneider, the TESOL Certificate Coordinator (jason.schneider@depaul.edu), for more information about course offerings.

ENG 407 Grammar and Style for Writers

Wednesday 6:00 PM - 9:15 PM | LPC | [On-Campus](#)

Craig Sirles

TESOL Certificate (Language Structure)

A comprehensive examination of structural elements and stylistic devices that experienced writers use across a number of creative and professional genres. Topics include components of grammar and style, sentence rhythm and prosody, diction choices, rhetorical punctuation, and the development of one's personal writing voice.

MAWRD | non-WRD Electives

Reminder on the MA in WRD policy on taking courses outside of WRD: Students who wish to enroll in graduate courses in other programs may request permission to do so after they complete six WRD courses. In exceptional cases (e.g., students completing certificate programs that require non-WRD courses), students may be granted permission to take courses outside of the program earlier in their degree study. Students who wish to take a non-WRD course must submit a brief written proposal to the graduate committee and receive the committee's approval prior to enrollment in the course. Email your proposal or questions to MAWRD Director Jason Schneider (jason.schneider@depaul.edu).

A maximum of two courses may be taken outside of WRD. Students who have transferred in two or more courses from another institution (see [Transfer Credit](#) policy) must take all of their remaining courses in the WRD program.

You might begin your [course search](#) by reviewing course offerings in the colleges and programs or in [this list](#) curated by the department's Equity Committee.

MAWRD | Resources and Reminders

Concentrations

If you intend to declare a concentration (Teaching Writing & Language or Professional & Digital Writing), please do so as soon as possible. You simply need to send an email directly to me.

Certificates

If you plan to pursue a [SWAN Certificate](#) or a [TESOL Certificate](#), please apply as soon as possible; follow the directions included under "Admission Requirements." If you plan to pursue a [Teaching English in Two-Year Colleges Certificate](#) (TE2YC), please apply as soon as possible; follow the directions included under "Application."

Exit Requirement

Please review the description of the Exit Requirement in the [WRD Graduate Student Handbook](#) (p. 7). New MAWRD students should begin preparing for the Exit Requirement by saving all your coursework.

Teaching Apprenticeship Program (TAP)

Students interested in teaching writing at the college level or those who anticipate going on for a Ph.D. will benefit from the [Teaching Apprenticeship Program](#) (TAP). Admission to the program is competitive. To be eligible for TAP in academic year 2026–2027, students must have completed WRD 540, at least one additional course from the Teaching Writing & Language concentration, and six courses in total (24 credits) in the MAWRD by the end of SQ2026. The request for applications to participate in TAP in academic year 2026–2027 will be emailed in March 2026.

Internships

If you are considering an internship, WRD 590/591, here is the link to the [requirements](#).

If you are interested in community-engaged projects, you might consider the [Harrison I. Steans Graduate Fellowship](#), which is designed collaboratively with off-campus organizational partners focused on social equity and draws inspiration from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Graduate Research Fund

The college supports the research, scholarship, and creative work of graduate students through its [Graduate Research Fund](#) (GRF). The GRF helps defray the cost of conducting research and creative work closely related to one's program of study and for presenting papers at academic conferences through a competitive process. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis but must be received no later than 30 days prior to your departure.

Financial Assistance

The MA in WRD offers three forms of [financial assistance](#) to students available to new and returning students. Current students who are interested in applying for a GA or PTF should email their application materials to Jason Schneider (jason.schneider@depaul.edu) by February 15.

- **Graduate assistantships** carry full tuition for up to six graduate-level courses taken for credit towards your degree during the academic year and a stipend of \$8000, payable September through May. The award, if renewed, covers a maximum of 12 courses over a two-year period.
- **Partial Tuition Fellowships** provide tuition reimbursement for three courses in an academic year. Award recipients must be enrolled full-time in the MA in WRD for the entire academic year (two courses per quarter in the Autumn, Winter, and Spring quarters).
- **Partial Tuition Waivers** provide a partial reimbursement for tuition paid for up to two WRD courses toward the MA in WRD degree in the quarter of application. The exact amount of the award depends on the number of eligible applicants, but it is typically 15–30% of tuition paid per 4-credit course.

Faculty Advisors & Mentors

The [WRD Graduate Student Handbook](#) (p. 19) gives a description of the roles of faculty advisors and faculty mentors, and how each can support your progress in the program. The handbook also includes an Advising Timeline for Students (p. 20) with reminders of dates and activities to keep in mind throughout each quarter.