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Authors

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Too Many Cooks: Redesigning the English Program Website

Joshua T. Horton, Courtney Schlund, Alex Battitori, Morgan Ebbs, Tyler Breedlove, & Chanda Williams

The Inciting Incident

In ENGL 875 Seminar: Writing for the Web, Dr. Patterson approached us with concerns from the program regarding the accessibility and usability of the English Program's website. These concerns stemmed from the abundance of people responsible for curating content on the webpage. To help standardize the content, we began our project by identifying the webpage's target audiences.

Creating Personas

Henrietta Peckinpaugh

Prospective Student

Demographics

- Age 18
- Identifies as female
- From SW Missouri
- Class of '18
- 3.6 GPA
- Second generation college student
- Wants to be a creative nonfiction writer/memoirist
- Concerned that the department may be too conservative or unaware of her particular needs and situation

Creating Personas

Elizabeth

Prospective
Graduate Student

Demographics

- 23 years old
- Recently graduated from K-State
- Holds a B.A. in English
- GPA: 3.8
- Hometown: Kansas City, Kansas
- Single with no children

Creating Personas

Chester Kim

Current Student

Demographics

- 18 years old
- Foreign student from China
- Tentative grasp on the English language
- Working in the school library
- Only child with a single parent

Usability Study

The Tasks

1. Find the qualifications for the English Alumni Scholarship.
2. Find the American Literature Specialty Reading List for the Graduate Comprehensive Exams.
3. Find the degree program requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Education degree with a major in English.
4. Find the location of Dr. James Greene's office.
5. Find the Writing Center's website.

SUS Questionnaire

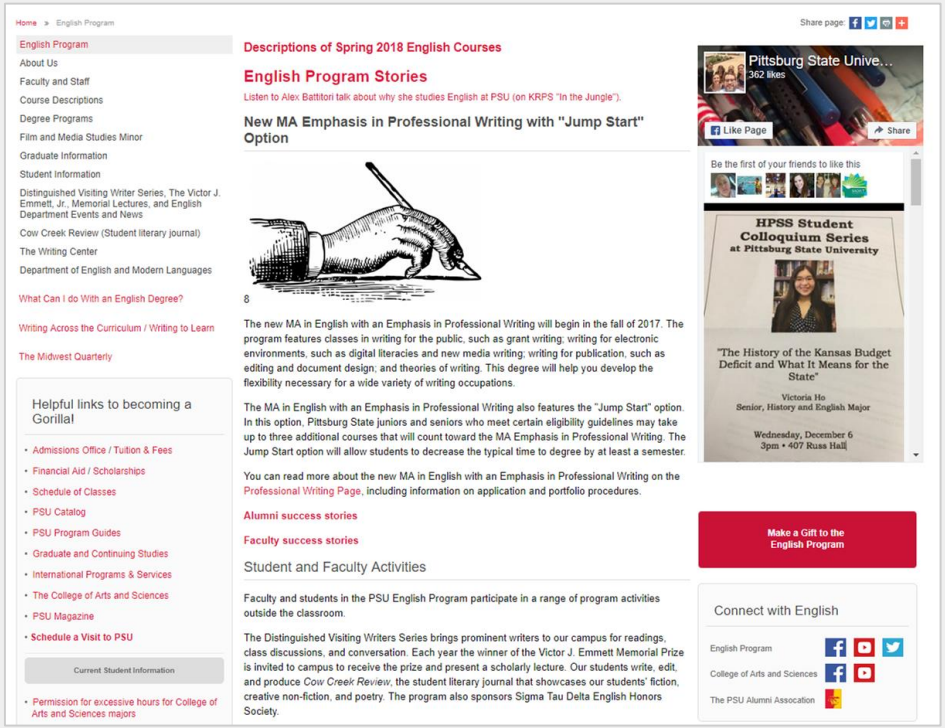
1. I think that I would like to use this system frequently.
2. I found the system unnecessarily complex.
3. I thought the system was easy to use.
4. I think that I would need the support of a technical person to be able to use this system.
5. I found the various functions in this system were well integrated.
6. I thought there was too much inconsistency in this system.
7. I would imagine that most people would learn to use this system very quickly.
8. I found the system very cumbersome to use.
9. I felt very confident using the system.
10. I needed to learn a lot of things before I could get going with this system.

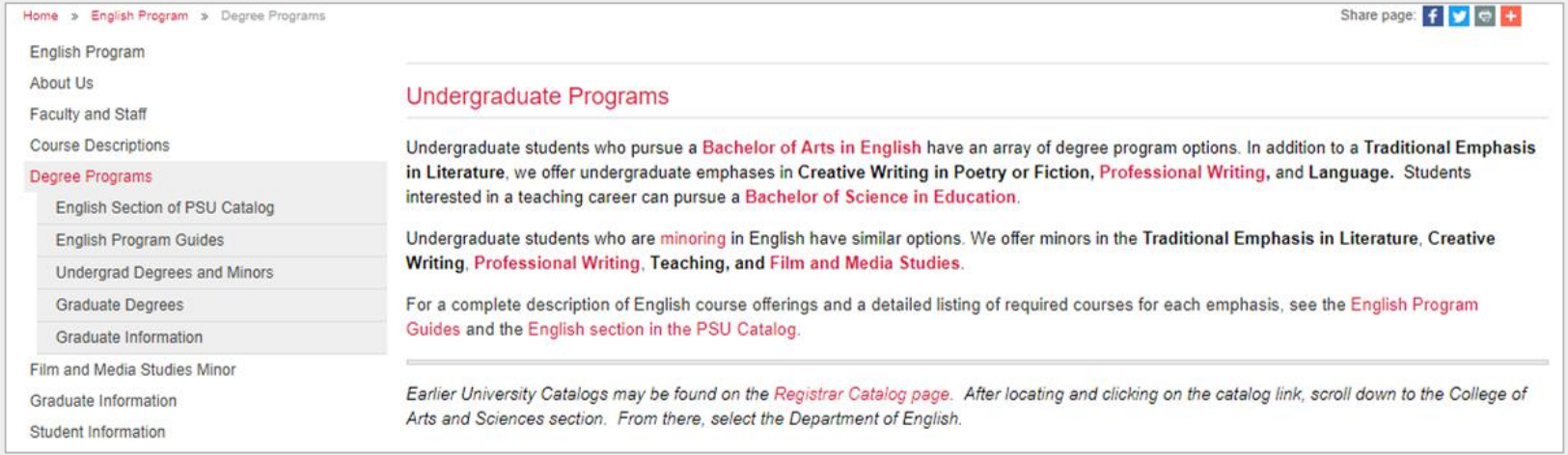
Usability Study and SUS Information

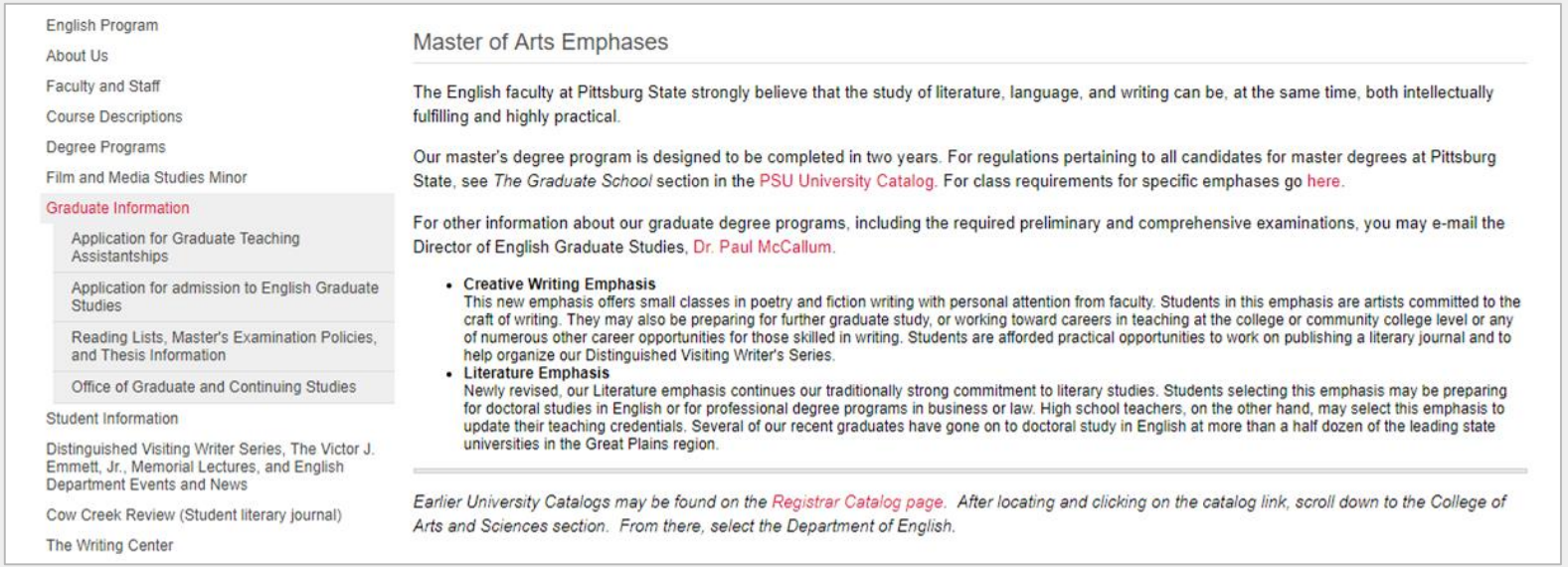
Participant	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	SUS score
P1	5	1	4	1	5	1	4	1	4	2	90.0
P2	4	2	4	1	5	3	4	3	4	1	77.5
P3	3	3	2	2	2	4	2	3	1	3	37.5
P4	4	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	55.0
											65.0

Pittsburg State University
English Program
SEARCH
Make a Gift
Campus Logins
ADMISSION +
LEARNING AT PITT STATE +
STUDENTS +
FACULTY & STAFF +
ALUMNI & FRIENDS
ATHLETICS
EVENTS
Home ▸ English Program
English Program
About Us
Faculty and Staff
What Can I do With an English Degree?
Writing Across the Curriculum / Writing to Learn
The Midwest Quarterly
Helpful links to becoming a Gorilla!
Descriptions of Summer and Fall 2017 English Courses
English Program Stories
Listen to Alex Rattton talk about why she studies English at PSU (on KRPS "In the Jungle")
New MA Emphasis in Professional Writing with "Jump Start" Option
The new MA in English with an Emphasis in Professional Writing will begin in the fall of 2017. The program features classes in writing for the public, such as grant writing; writing for electronic environments, such as digital literacies and new media writing; writing for publication, such as editing and document design; and theories of writing. This degree will help you develop the flexibility necessary for a wide variety of writing occupations.
The MA in English with an Emphasis in Professional Writing also features the "Jump Start" option. In this option, Pittsburg State juniors and seniors who meet certain eligibility guidelines may take
Share page
Pittsburg State Unive...
Like Page
Share
Be the first of your friends to like this
Pittsburg State University English
2 hours ago
Ahoy, Avast ye. International Talk Like a Pirate Day has snuck up on us again! Catch up with the best literary pirates here: https://www.theguardian.com/books/2008/dec/06/1
theguardian

Content Audit




Home » English Program » Degree Programs
Share page:
English Program
About Us
Faculty and Staff
Course Descriptions
Degree Programs
English Section of PSU Catalog
English Program Guides
Undergrad Degrees and Minors
Graduate Degrees
Graduate Information
Film and Media Studies Minor
Graduate Information
Student Information
Undergraduate Programs
Undergraduate students who pursue a Bachelor of Arts in English have an array of degree program options. In addition to a Traditional Emphasis in Literature, we offer undergraduate emphases in Creative Writing in Poetry or Fiction, Professional Writing, and Language. Students interested in a teaching career can pursue a Bachelor of Science in Education.
Undergraduate students who are minoring in English have similar options. We offer minors in the Traditional Emphasis in Literature, Creative Writing, Professional Writing, Teaching, and Film and Media Studies.
For a complete description of English course offerings and a detailed listing of required courses for each emphasis, see the English Program Guides and the English section in the PSU Catalog.
Earlier University Catalogs may be found on the Registrar Catalog page. After locating and clicking on the catalog link, scroll down to the College of Arts and Sciences section. From there, select the Department of English.



English Program
About Us
Faculty and Staff
Course Descriptions
Degree Programs
Film and Media Studies Minor
Graduate Information
Application for Graduate Teaching Assistantships
Application for admission to English Graduate Studies
Reading Lists, Master's Examination Policies, and Thesis Information
Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies
Student Information
Distinguished Visiting Writer Series, The Victor J. Emmett, Jr., Memorial Lectures, and English Department Events and News
Cow Creek Review (Student literary journal)
The Writing Center

Master of Arts Emphases

The English faculty at Pittsburg State strongly believe that the study of literature, language, and writing can be, at the same time, both intellectually fulfilling and highly practical.

Our master's degree program is designed to be completed in two years. For regulations pertaining to all candidates for master degrees at Pittsburg State, see *The Graduate School* section in the PSU University Catalog. For class requirements for specific emphases go here.

For other information about our graduate degree programs, including the required preliminary and comprehensive examinations, you may e-mail the Director of English Graduate Studies, Dr. Paul McCallum.

- **Creative Writing Emphasis**
  This new emphasis offers small classes in poetry and fiction writing with personal attention from faculty. Students in this emphasis are artists committed to the craft of writing. They may also be preparing for further graduate study, or working toward careers in teaching at the college or community college level or any of numerous other career opportunities for those skilled in writing. Students are afforded practical opportunities to work on publishing a literary journal and to help organize our Distinguished Visiting Writer's Series.
- **Literature Emphasis**
  Newly revised, our Literature emphasis continues our traditionally strong commitment to literary studies. Students selecting this emphasis may be preparing for doctoral studies in English or for professional degree programs in business or law. High school teachers, on the other hand, may select this emphasis to update their teaching credentials. Several of our recent graduates have gone on to doctoral study in English at more than a half dozen of the leading state universities in the Great Plains region.

Earlier University Catalogs may be found on the Registrar Catalog page. After locating and clicking on the catalog link, scroll down to the College of Arts and Sciences section. From there, select the Department of English.

Writing the Style Guide

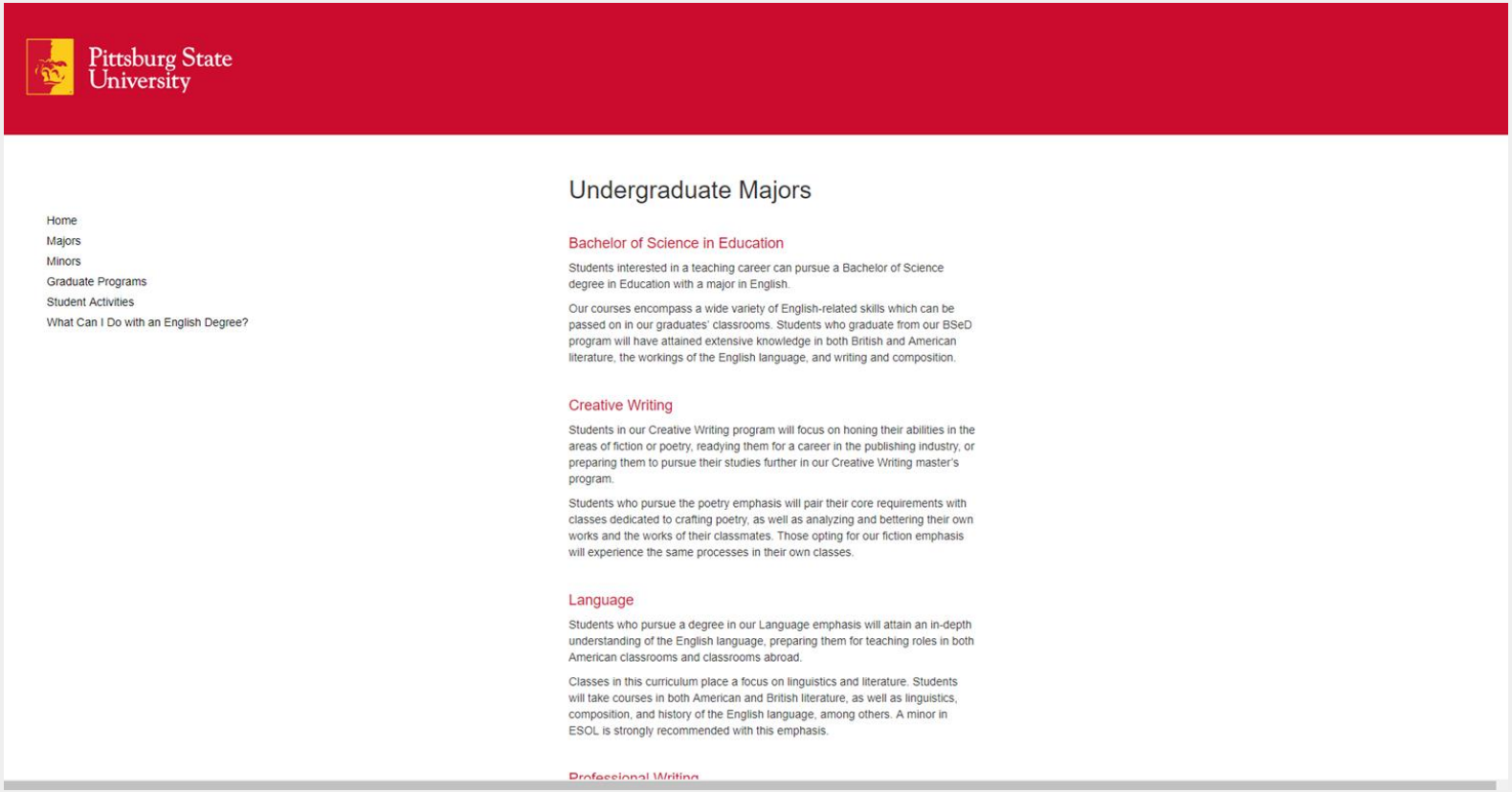
Excerpt from the Style Guide

- Capitalize names of programs
- Use standard numerals (spell out 1-10 and numerals for 10+)
- Use “our” instead of Pittsburg State University as an adjective
- Use Sigma Tau Delta instead of STD
- Use Cow Creek Review on first use and then Cow Creek
- Use directive commands for links
- Use “group” pronouns (we, our, us)
- Limit paragraphs to 3 or 4 sentences

Creating the Content

- Home Page
- Degree Programs- Majors
- Degree Programs- Minors
- Graduate Programs
- What Can I Do with an English Degree?

The Results


Pittsburg State University
Home
Majors
Minors
Graduate Programs
Student Activities
What Can I Do with an English Degree?
Undergraduate Majors
Bachelor of Science in Education
Students interested in a teaching career can pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Education with a major in English.
Our courses encompass a wide variety of English-related skills which can be passed on in our graduates' classrooms. Students who graduate from our BSeD program will have attained extensive knowledge in both British and American literature, the workings of the English language, and writing and composition.
Creative Writing
Students in our Creative Writing program will focus on honing their abilities in the areas of fiction or poetry, readying them for a career in the publishing industry, or preparing them to pursue their studies further in our Creative Writing master's program.
Students who pursue the poetry emphasis will pair their core requirements with classes dedicated to crafting poetry, as well as analyzing and bettering their own works and the works of their classmates. Those opting for our fiction emphasis will experience the same processes in their own classes.
Language
Students who pursue a degree in our Language emphasis will attain an in-depth understanding of the English language, preparing them for teaching roles in both American classrooms and classrooms abroad.
Classes in this curriculum place a focus on linguistics and literature. Students will take courses in both American and British literature, as well as linguistics, composition, and history of the English language, among others. A minor in ESOL is strongly recommended with this emphasis.
Professional Writing

Works Consulted

Letting Go of the Words by Janice (Ginny) Reddish