

(P)  
210

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM 2000-2001

**NEW PROGRAMS, MAJOR PROGRAM REVISIONS, AND PROGRAM NAME CHANGES PROCESS C**

**\*DEADLINES:** Deadline dates for 2000/2001 submissions: Regular proposals: October 20, 2000 to be implemented in Fall 2001; Short-Term proposals: December 8, 2000 to be implemented in Fall, 2001; Regular proposals February 16, 2001 to be implemented in Spring, 2002; March 23, 2000 for short-term courses to be implemented in Spring 2002.

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** *Important Name Change: From College Writing to Composition and Rhetoric*

**SPONSOR(S):** *James Rawson, Chair*

**DEPARTMENT:** *College Writing* (~~now~~ *renamed - Composition Rhetoric Dept*)

**COLLEGE:** *Communications*

IF LAS CHECK ONE:  History/Humanities  Math/Sciences  Social/Behavioral Sciences

Check One:  Undergraduate  Graduate

The attached **NEW PROGRAM/MAJOR PROGRAM REVISION/PROGRAM NAME CHANGE** proposal is best described by the item(s) checked.

New degree program

New Certificate of Graduate Study Program

New major

New minor

New concentration, specialization, or track

Major changes to degree requirements, major, minor, or certificate program.

Changes to name of college, school, department or degree

Quasi Curricular

**DEPARTMENT**  
(Signature indicates approval)

*James Rawson* *October 18, 2000*

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Dept. Curriculum Chair / Date

*James Rawson* *October 18, 2000*

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Dept./Chairperson / Date

**ACADEMIC DEAN (& Graduate Dean, for New Graduate Programs Only)**

Approved  Not Approved  Comments:

Academic Dean's Signature/Date [Signature] - 11/14/01

Graduate Dean's Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_

**COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

Approved  Not Approved

Comments: Review for James K. ...

Signature of College Chair/Date: [Signature] 11/14/01

**UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

Date of Open Hearing (if necessary) 12/15/01 Approved  Not Approved

Comments:  
Curriculum Chair Signature/Date [Signature]

Date voted upon at Senate (if necessary) 1-23-01 Approved  Not Approved

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/PROVOST**

Approved  Not Approved  If no, reasons are as follows:

Student Credit Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty Load Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Equalized Credit Hours \_\_\_\_\_

Official Copy & Approval Sheet Filed (Date): \_\_\_\_\_ Executive VP/Provost Signature/Date [Signature] 2/15/01

**REGISTRAR**

Date Approved Course Description Received \_\_\_\_\_ Hegis Taxonomy & Course Number Assigned \_\_\_\_\_

Registrar Signature/Date [Signature] 2/7/01 CORH - Composition and Rhetoric

**NOTIFICATION FORWARD**

\_\_\_\_ Senate Curriculum Committee Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Dean(s)  
\_\_\_\_ Department Chairpersons \_\_\_\_\_ Registrar \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor(s)

Approved by Board of Trustees 1/11/01

MINOR CURRICULAR CHANGE PROPOSAL  
DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE (PROCESS C)

1. Details

a. Change Requested:

Name of the College Writing Department  
From *College Writing* to *Department of Composition and Rhetoric*.

b. Sponsor:

Professor Janice Rowan, Chair, College Writing.

2. Rationale

a. Need for the Change

The members of the College Writing Department no longer feel that the designation of College Writing adequately describes the Department's expanded mission. In some minds, College Writing may be associated exclusively with a Freshman Writing Program, consisting of some basic skills courses, College Composition I, and College Composition II. For many years, these courses comprised most of our teaching responsibility.

However, in recent years, our Department has added to its offerings both an undergraduate specialization in Writing Arts and a co-sponsored M.A. in Writing. We continue our extensive teaching commitment to freshman composition, but we have added several undergraduate courses, such as *The Writer's Mind*; *Writing, Research, and Technology*; and *Evaluating Writing*. At the graduate level, we are teaching *Issues in Composition*, *Assessing Writing*, *Writing for Electronic Communities*, *Information Architecture*, and other courses. The more professional and inclusive title of Department of Composition and Rhetoric best describes our present and future identity.

Another reason for the name change is that it would bring us more in line with academic writing departments across the country. Increasingly, departments with our teaching responsibilities are known as Composition and Rhetoric Departments. Also, our faculty hired in the last five years

have, for the most part, graduated from Composition/Rhetoric programs, and future hires will more clearly recognize our academic orientation under the new name. And the new name would benefit our undergraduate and graduate students if they pursue work at other institutions of higher learning, some entering graduate programs in composition and rhetoric. Our undergraduates specializing in Writing Arts would have worked with a Department of Composition and Rhetoric rather than a College Writing Department, reflecting the professional status of their program of study at Rowan.

In addition, we seek the new name of Composition and Rhetoric because this field—not as well known or as well established even ten or fifteen years ago—has emerged as an independent and highly respected field of academic study. Our faculty, quite reasonably, want their teaching and their scholarship to be clearly associated with the formal name of the discipline which they practice.

Thus, in the interest of our faculty, our students, our College, and, ultimately, our University, the College Writing Department seeks to be known as the Department of Composition and Rhetoric, a name which more closely fits our academic mission.

b. No Curricular Effect.

### 3. Results of Consultation:

a. Parties Consulted:

Dr. Cynthia Corison, Chair of Communication Studies. College Writing representatives discussed this name change with Dr. Corison and members of her department at a department meeting.

Dr. Antoinette Libro, Dean, College of Communication

Dr. Diane Penrod, Graduate Advisor, M. A. in Writing.

b. Letters from Consultants Forthcoming.



*Department of Communication Studies*

October 18, 2000

To: Professor Janice Rowan, Chair, College Writing

From: Dr. Cindy Corison, Chair, Communication Studies

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Corison".

Re: Departmental Name Change.

The Department of Communication Studies recognizes the need for the College Writing Department to have a name that more appropriately reflects its curriculum, faculty background, and purpose. The name "Department of Composition and Rhetoric" does express this need.

The Communication Studies department would like, however, to reiterate our concern that the term "rhetoric" applies to a number of Communication disciplines. One of the premier journals in the Communication Studies field, for example, is the Quarterly Journal of Speech—a journal of rhetorical studies. Our department's curriculum specifically offers coursework in Rhetorical Studies (including Rhetorical Criticism). We are also in the process of making curricular changes that will include a concentration in Rhetoric and Public Affairs.

We recognize that the College Writing department is not attempting to usurp our area of study in any way. We would, however, like to have some formal recognition that the study of rhetoric will not be limited to a single department—one whose title includes the term rhetoric.



October 24, 2000

*Master of Arts in Writing*

Professor Janice Rowan  
Chair  
Department of College Writing  
Bozorth Hall

Dear Janice:

I read your minor curricular change proposal to change the name of the Department of College Writing to the Department of Composition and Rhetoric. Given the growth and development of the department over the past few years, especially with the offering of a master's program in Writing, this name change is both timely and critical.

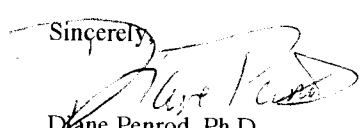
Increasingly across the country free-standing college writing departments like the one at Rowan have moved from being named "Expository Writing programs" or "College Writing departments" to Departments of Composition and Rhetoric or Departments of Composition Studies. This change reflects the both the nomenclature of the field, which has increased in scope and significance over the past thirty years, and the type of work conducted in the department.

Moreover, this name change makes it easier to attract top candidates for future job openings, as applicants are graduating from doctoral programs in Composition and Rhetoric and these individuals clearly understand the type of work done at Rowan and how it will differ from other institutions to which they may apply. Speaking as the Graduate Program Adviser, I know that our future graduates in the Composition Studies specialization of the master's degree will find it easier to gain recognition from potential doctoral programs or employers with the name changed to Department of Composition and Rhetoric.

I enthusiastically support this curricular change proposal. This name change more accurately reflects what the Department of College Writing does, and it benefits our current and future undergraduate and graduate students who specialize in Writing.

All the best with this proposal.

Sincerely,



Diane Penrod, Ph.D.  
Graduate Program Adviser

Janice Rowan  
Chair, College Writing  
College of Communication  
Rowan University

December 1, 2000

Dr. Cynthia Corison, Chair  
Communication Studies  
Rowan University

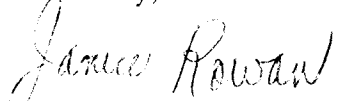
Dear Dr. Corison:

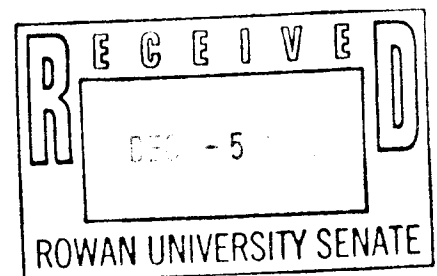
My department thanks you and all of the Communication Studies faculty for your collegial support of our proposed name change.

We would like to reassure you that the College Writing Department, in seeking to change its name to the Department of Composition and Rhetoric, is not suggesting that the teaching of all rhetoric and rhetoric-related courses be limited to our department. We recognize the close alliance between our areas of study and fully respect your right to introduce rhetoric courses. In fact, we see it as most desirable that our two departments continue our current open and interactive relationship.

Again, thank you for your reasonable and gracious cooperation. I know that you act out of your concern for the best interests of our students and our College.

Sincerely,

  
Janice Rowan  
Chair, College Writing



**RESOLUTION #7**

**APPROVAL OF NOMENCLATURE CHANGE  
FROM DEPARTMENT OF COLLEGE WRITING  
TO DEPARTMENT OF COMPOSITION AND RHETORIC**

**WHEREAS,** the Department of College Writing in the College of Communication has requested that the nomenclature of the department be changed from the Department of College Writing to the Department of Composition and Rhetoric, and

**WHEREAS,** the Senate Curriculum Committee, the University Senate, and the Dean of the College of Communication have approved the request of the department to change its name, and

**WHEREAS,** the proposed name change does not affect the curriculum or the programs offered by the department, and

**WHEREAS,** the name Composition and Rhetoric best describes the department's present and future identity, as well as bringing the title of the department more in line with academic writing departments across the country reflecting the professional status of the programs of study, and

**WHEREAS,** the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees have approved this nomenclature change

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of Rowan University approves the nomenclature change of the Department of College Writing to the Department of Composition and Rhetoric.

**SUMMARY STATEMENT**

This resolution authorizes the President to proceed with the nomenclature change of the department from the Department of College Writing to the Department of Composition and Rhetoric.

4/11/01