

Teaching Critical Discourse Analysis Across the Disciplines

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This report provides context for the development and implementation of a 30-hour core curriculum at the University of Missouri–Kansas City (UMKC). The backbone of the new General Education program at UMKC is a sequence of three courses that are defined in terms of Critical Discourse Analysis. This report explains how these courses teach Communication Skills by emphasizing the critical analysis of disciplinary and professional discourse formations, teaching students how to use writing and speech as tools to expose and analyze the cultural norms and practices that comprise the “habitus” of any given discourse community, thus equipping them to figure out which written and spoken genres are appropriate as they move between and among different disciplines, professional contexts, and cultural situations.

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