

How the writing and rhetoric minor landed a UCF alum a job after graduation:
UCF Alum Madeleine Mulford discusses how her minor helped her land a full-time job just weeks after graduating.

By: Kendall Finley

Selecting a minor in college can be just as challenging as picking a major. While some students choose a minor that complements their major, others choose an unrelated minor that they are interested in learning about. Regardless of how or what you choose, having a minor can be a great addition to your resume to show employers a diversified educational background.

Madeleine Mulford is a UCF alum and former writer for the College of Arts and Humanities. During Mulford's time at UCF, she majored in advertising and public relations with a minor in writing and rhetoric. Shortly after graduation, the North American Veterinarian Community offered Mulford a full-time position as an email coordinator. According to Mulford, having a writing and rhetoric minor helped her gain credibility in her writing skills and stand out from other applicants.

Mulford completed her first year of college education at Florida State University as an English major before transferring to UCF. After deciding to change her major to advertising and public relations, Mulford wanted to add a minor. When selecting a minor, Mulford stated that she wanted a program where she could "constantly keep writing to enhance my skills and enhance the writing muscle."

The writing and rhetoric minor is flexible about what classes to take, which allows students to specialize in the areas they are interested in. As an advertising and public relations major, this benefited Mulford as she gained a "good theoretical foundation for understanding how to target your audience and how to understand your audience, especially if you are going into copywriting or public relations."

The writing and rhetoric minor allows students to gain real-world experience, in addition to expanding their portfolio. In one class called writing for social change (ENC4353), students gain required service hours working with Page 15, located near the downtown UCF campus.

Page 15 is a non-profit that specializes in helping children with their literacy skills. Mulford stated that this was both her hardest and favorite class that she took in the writing and rhetoric minor. “Writing for social change was the hardest because it involved balancing large projects in class while also balancing time to go in person and make sure you have your service hours done. It is challenging but also rewarding because you got to meet the people that you did the work for at Page 15.”

When asked what she enjoyed most about the minor, Mulford said the small class sizes. The small classes allow students to get personalized help from their professors. Additionally, many classes are discussion-based and involve engagement with fellow peers. “One of the things I enjoyed most was reading on your own and going into class and getting to have philosophical discussions and connect with your peers on a deeper level,” Mulford stated.

The writing and rhetoric minor at UCF consists of 18 credit hours, 12 of which must be completed at UCF. All students in the minor are required to take writing and rhetoric foundations (ENC3314). Students may select 1 of 4 options for the advanced core requirement, which include professional writing (ENC3250), rhetoric and civic engagement (ENC3331), cultural rhetorics (ENC3373) or literacy and technology (ENC3417). For the remaining 12 credits, students may select their choice of four classes from a list of 19 unique course offerings.

For more information about the writing and rhetoric minor, read about the program requirements [here](#).

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