

Professional Writing Fact Sheet

Program Mission

The professional writing program seeks to create an environment that encourages and supports the use and development of effective professional communication practices. We teach students to successfully perform the primary tasks of workplace writers (analysis, research, design, writing, editing, and publishing) in order to prepare them to adapt to a variety of work situations.

Ways to Study Professional Writing

Minor in Professional Writing

Students who minor in professional writing can learn to effectively communicate their content knowledge to different audiences. The minor prepares students to communicate effectively in their careers or to face the rigors of writing in graduate or law school. Students who pair a professional writing minor with a science, engineering, or technology degree develop a diverse skill set that can set them apart on the job market.

Graduate Certificate in Professional Writing

The Online Graduate Certificate in Professional Writing was designed for working professionals and recent graduates looking to make themselves competitive in the job market. The 15-credit hour graduate certificate qualifies students for positions as professional or technical writers. The program is designed to be an additional credential or enhancement, not a substitute for a graduate degree.

Bachelor of Arts in English with concentration in Professional Writing

Students who major in English with a concentration in professional writing learn to translate their “soft skills” (critical thinking, problem solving, empathy, interpersonal communication) to workplace contexts. The concentration prepares students for careers that depend on strong communication and writing skills. Students who take the core professional writing courses will be prepared for a careers in technical and professional writing.

Master of Arts in English with concentration in Professional Writing

Students who pursue an MA in English with a concentration in professional writing develop the research and critical writing skills of graduate students, as well as professional communication skills. The MA qualifies students for positions as professional or technical writers. Additionally, students who take graduate courses in Rhetoric and Composition will be prepared to teach professional writing at community colleges and universities.

