

Technical Writing (BHA Concentration)

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BHA Technical Writing Concentration

(87 units minimum)

The concentration in Technical Writing prepares students to produce clear and effective communication that translates complex scientific and technical information for diverse audiences. Whether students come from writing backgrounds seeking to engage with STEM fields, or from STEM disciplines looking to develop the communication skills employers demand, the degree offers a flexible, individually tailored course of study. Students engage in intensive practice in writing, editing, and user-centered design alongside technical and scientific coursework.

Students can choose to focus their concentration in the Technical Communication (TC) Track or the Scientific and Medical Communication (SMC) Track. The Technical Communication track (TC) prepares students for careers in the rapidly changing field of technology, digital media, and information design. Students learn the fundamentals of visual, verbal, and on-line communication as well as the technical skills needed to design, communicate, and evaluate complex communication systems and to manage the interdisciplinary teams needed to develop them. Students become fluent in both print-based and electronic media across a variety of information genres and learn to design information for a range of specialist and non-expert audiences. The Scientific and Medical Communication track (SMC) is designed for students who seek careers that focus on communication and information design problems in health, science, and medicine. It should appeal to students with interests in the health care professions, science and public policy, patient education, scientific journalism and related fields. Like the TC track, the SMC track is designed to provide both the technical and the communication skills needed to analyze and solve complex communication problems. Students learn the fundamentals of visual, verbal, and on-line communication as well as the technical skills needed to design, communicate, and evaluate complex information systems and to manage the interdisciplinary teams needed to develop them. The Technical Writing concentration advisor can help you design the course selections for that track you choose.

This interdisciplinary curriculum positions graduates for a field defined by ongoing shifts in media, tools, and communication practice. Career paths include technical writing, science and medical communication, UX writing, content strategy, and information design, among others.

Prerequisite Courses

		Units
21-111	Differential Calculus (21-120's prerequisite: 21-090)	10
or 21-112	Integral Calculus	
or 21-120	Differential and Integral Calculus	
or 21-127	Concepts of Mathematics	
15-110	Principles of Computing (required for SMC-track students)	10
or 15-112	Fundamentals of Programming and Computer Science (required for TC-track students)	

Technical Writing Core Courses (7 courses, 51 units)

76-2xx	One Introductory Genre Writing Course (Nonfiction, Fiction, Poetry, TV Writing or Screenwriting)	9
76-271	Introduction to Professional and Technical Writing	9
76-300	Professional Seminar	3
76-390	Style	9
76-391	Document & Information Design	9
76-487	Information Architecture & Content Strategy (co-requisite with 76-488)	9
76-488	Information Architecture & Content Strategy Lab (co-requisite with 76-487)	3

Theory/Specialization Courses (3 courses, 27 units minimum)

Complete three courses to deepen your area of specialty in Technical Communication or Scientific and Medical Communication. At least one course must be chosen from among those designated as Recommended Options.

Recommended Options:

76-314	Data Stories	9
76-327	Equity & Communication: Strategies for Institutional Change	9
76-375	Emerging Technologies in Writing	9
76-380	Methods in Humanities Analytics	9
76-395	Science Writing	9
76-425	Rhetoric, Science, and the Public Sphere	9
76-474	Software Documentation	9
76-476	Rhetoric of Science	9
76-490	Digital Rhetorics	9
76-494	Healthcare Communications	9

Additional Options i nclude but are not limited to the following:

76-301	Internship	Var.
76-302	Communication Support Tutoring Practicum	6
76-318	Communicating in the Global Marketplace	9
76-325	Intertextuality	9
76-354	Watchdog Journalism	9
76-366	Grant and Proposal Writing	9
76-372	News Writing	9
76-375	Emerging Technologies in Writing	9
76-384	Race, Nation, and the Enemy	9
76-389	Rhetorical Grammar	9
76-391	Document & Information Design	9
76-475	Law, Performance, and Identity	9
76-481	Introduction to Multimedia Design	12
76-487	Information Architecture & Content Strategy (co-requisite with 76-488)	9
76-488	Information Architecture & Content Strategy Lab (co-requisite with 76-487)	3
76-490	Digital Rhetorics	9

Electives (1 course, 9 units)

Students with a Technical Writing concentration take one course outside of English to deepen their area of specialty in their track. Students in the TC track typically select courses from business, design, psychology, and social and decision sciences, or HCI. Students in the SMC track select courses from the natural sciences, computer science, math or statistics, or (for example) healthcare-related courses in the Heinz School. Students should work with the Technical Writing concentration advisor to select courses that are meaningful for their track.