Technical Communication, MS

Build professional communication skills you can apply to a career in any sector. This program is open to applicants from any field.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Technical Communication
The MS program in technical communication teaches students how to design, produce and manage print and digital texts using traditional and developing technologies.

The curriculum provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the professional, cultural and ethical issues that shape the field; it balances theory and practice to ensure students develop the analytical abilities, technological expertise and hands-on skills necessary for success as a technical communicator.

Students complete the program as accomplished writers, editors, designers and researchers who are able to respond effectively to a range of audiences, issues and communication situations.

At a Glance

- College/School: College of Integrative Sciences and Arts
- Location: Polytechnic or Online

Degree Requirements

36 credit hours including a thesis, or
36 credit hours including the required applied project course (TWC 593), or
36 credit hours including the required capstone course (TWC 596)
Required Core (6 credit hours)
TWC 504 Applied Rhetoric and Technical Communication (3)
TWC 505 Research in Technical and Applied Communication (3)

Restricted Electives (21 or 27 credit hours)

Other Requirement (0 or 3 credit hours)
TWC 506 Research Design and Development (3)

Culminating Experience (3 or 6 credit hours)
TWC 593 Applied Project (6) or
TWC 596 Technical Communication Capstone (3) or
TWC 599 Thesis (6)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students who do not have previous technical communication coursework or relevant industry experience must take TWC 501 Fundamentals of Technical Communication as a restricted elective. For a full list of the approved electives courses, students should inquire at the academic unit offices.

Students complete an applied project, capstone course or thesis for the culminating experience. Students who choose the capstone option will complete a total of 27 elective credit hours.

TWC 506 is a requirement for students completing an applied project or thesis only.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. portfolio
5. three letters of recommendation
6. proof of English proficiency
Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency. Since this degree requires a high degree of proficiency in English, an applicant whose native language is not English is expected to have one the following TOEFL scores: 600 traditional paper-based, 100 internet-based, or 250 computer-based.

All applicants must submit a written letter of application that includes a detailed statement of purpose as well as a portfolio of at least three documents that demonstrate the applicant's ability to write in a variety of genres. Portfolio documents can include both academic and professional writing for a range of audiences and purposes and need not be in the area of technical communication. The portfolio should be 15 to 30 pages in length. The writing samples in the portfolio are evaluated using a rubric that considers several criteria, including a demonstration of the ability to focus on a specific purpose and to meet audience needs and show organization, clarity, mechanical soundness and overall effectiveness.

All applicants must submit three letters of reference, either academic or professional, that speak to the background and capabilities of the applicant.

Attend Online

ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Career Opportunities

Professionals with expertise in technical communication are in high demand across sectors and industries, including technology, business, entertainment, education and community organizations. Graduates are prepared for technical communication positions in the private, public and nonprofit sectors and offers professionals the opportunity to further advance their careers.

Skills in the analysis of users and data, writing and creating visuals, and managing online and multimedia content are valuable to businesses and institutions relying on rhetorical awareness and understanding of complex information to manage specialized content and to translate them to broad audiences for maximum impact.

Career examples include:

- instructional designer
- IT project manager
- public relations manager
- quality assurance analyst and tester
- social media manager
- technical writer
- user experience specialist
• web content developer

Contact Information

College of Integrative Sciences and Arts | SANCA 233  
CISA@asu.edu | 480-727-1526  
Admission Deadlines