

BHA-Technical Writing

Fall 2023

Bachelor of Humanities and Arts (BHA)

Dietrich College (DC) Concentration in Technical Writing

87 units (minimum)

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The concentration in Technical Writing is specifically designed to prepare students for successful careers involving scientific, technical, and computer-related communication, including writing and designing for digital media. Technical communicators develop and design web sites, explain science and technology to the public, develop print and multimedia materials, develop information management systems, design and deliver corporate training, and develop support systems for consumer products ranging from software for word processing or personal finances to complex data management systems. The Technical Writing concentration includes with a common core of foundation courses in print and on-line communication as well as a set of prerequisites in math, statistics and computer programming.

Students with a Technical Writing concentration take two Theory/Specialization courses specific to either the Technical Communication (TC) or the Scientific and Medical Communication (SMC) track. In addition, students in the SMC track take two courses in the natural sciences or engineering relevant to their areas of interest, while TC students take two electives in management, technology and social issues.

BHA students take at least 9 courses in their DC concentration, for a minimum of 81 units. A completed DC Concentration Declaration Sheet must be approved by the concentration advisor and submitted to the BXA office by spring mid-semester break of the student's sophomore year. BHA students who are admitted through internal transfer must have chosen a DC concentration at the time of their application, which serves as declaration.

Prerequisite Courses

21-111	Calculus I	10
or 21-112	Calculus II	
or 21-120	Differential and Integral Calculus	
or 21-127	Concepts of Mathematics	
15-110	Principles of Computing (recommended for SMC-track students)	10
or 15-112	Fundamentals of Programming and Computer Science (recommended for TC-track students) (12)	

Technical Writing Core Courses

(6 courses, 51 units)

76-26x	Introductory Genre Writing Course (Nonfiction, Fiction, Poetry 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 (formerly titled Web Design)	12

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. One course must be chosen from among courses designated as Recommended Options. Check with the English department each semester for additional options.

Recommended Options:

76-314	Data Stories	9
76-327	Equity & Communication: Strategies for Institutional Change	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
76-481	Introduction to Multimedia Design	12
76-491	Rhetorical Analysis	9
<u>76-494</u>	Healthcare Communications	9

Additional Options include 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
76-327	Equity & Communication: Strategies for Institutional Change	9
76-351	Rhetorical Invention	9
76-354	Watchdog Journalism	9
76-360	Literary Journalism Workshop	9
76-372	News Writing	9
76-384	Race, Nation, and the Enemy	9

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76-389	Rhetorical Grammar	9
76-391	Document & Information Design	9
76-395	Science Writing	9
76-425	Rhetoric, Science, and the Public Sphere	9
76-474	Software Documentation	9
76-475	Law, Performance, and Identity	9
76-476	Rhetoric of Science	9
76-481	Introduction to Multimedia Design	12
76-484	Discourse Analysis	9
76-487	Information Architecture & Content Strategy (formerly titled Web Design)	12
39-605	Engineering Design Projects	12

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. Typically, students in the SMC track select courses in the natural sciences, computer science, math or statistics, or (for example) healthcare-related courses in the Heinz School. Students in the TC track typically select courses from business, design, psychology, and social and decision sciences, or HCI. Students should work with the concentration advisor to select courses that are meaningful for their track.