The B.A. in Professional Writing helps majors develop the strong writing skills needed in the current workplace, as well as the analytic and problem-solving skills needed to understand and keep pace with cultural and technological change. Because writers need both general knowledge and in-depth expertise on the subjects they write about, majors are encouraged to use their elective course options to develop their content knowledge in subjects they are interested in writing about. The degree combines core requirements in writing, rhetoric, and language studies with broad and flexible options for eight additional courses to provide focus and specialization. Courses include experience with individual, collaborative, and client projects; writing and information design for print and electronic media; and the development of a portfolio of polished samples that students can use to apply for internships and professional positions.

Majors should complement their academic study with communications-related internships and relevant experience through campus activities and publications such as: The Tartan, Pillbox, The Triple Helix, The Cut, D’Arte, Big Straw, Imprint, and the Oakland Review. All campus publications welcome student writers, editors, and information designers. Majors are also encouraged to seek funding for SURG and SURF projects and to do a senior honors thesis.

Graduates typically work in communications firms, government, nonprofits, for-profits, the publishing industry, healthcare, technology firms, new media companies, or the arts. The degree is also good preparation for graduate degrees in writing or other fields with strong communication components, including law, business, education, and design. Majors can also apply to the department's accelerated masters program, the MAPW 4 + 1, where they can complete an M.A. in Professional Writing in only one year.

Below is a suggested schedule for the first 2 years for a Primary Major. It is also available as an Additional Major and a Minor. The remainder of the Major and GenEd can be completed in the junior and senior year.

**1st semester (48 units)**
- 76-101, Interpretation & Argument
- Complete 1: 79-104, Global Histories 36-201, Statistical Reasoning
- Freshman Seminar
- 99-101 or 99-102, C@CM
- xx-xxx, Elective**
- xx-xxx, Elective**
- xx-xxx, Elective**

**2nd semester (45 units)**
- Complete 2: 79-104, Global Histories 36-201, Statistical Reasoning Freshman Seminar
- 76-xxx, One course*
- xx-xxx, Elective**
- xx-xxx, Elective**

**3rd semester (48 units)**
- 76-26x, Survey of Forms***
- 76-271, Intro. Prof. & Tech. Writ.
- 76-300, Professional Seminar+
- xx-xxx, Elective**
- xx-xxx, Elective**
- xx-xxx, Elective**

**4th semester (45 units)**
- 76-xxx, One course*
- 76-390, Style
- xx-xxx, Elective**
- xx-xxx, Elective**
- xx-xxx, Elective**

*76-101 must be completed prior to taking English Core Courses.
**Elective: This space can be used for a pre-requisite course, another GenEd course, major course, or for a course you are interested in.
***Complete One Survey of Forms Course: 76-260, 76-262, 76-265, 76-269.
+76-300, Professional Seminar (3 units) is highly recommended but not required. This weekly seminar introduces students to career options in professional and technical writing.