

## Sophie Dean

M.A. in Rhetoric, 2018

Strategic Communications  
Specialist, Ripple Effect  
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### Why did you choose CMU?

After completing a degree in literature, I was interested in the interdisciplinary nature of Rhetoric and applying it to topics like policy or design. I was hoping to explore those different disciplines, especially at a tech-minded place like CMU, and I did that by taking a variety of courses and not limiting myself to one topic or track. Towards the end, my goals shifted slightly to gaining more technical skills in preparation for the job search.

### How did your time at CMU prepare you for what's next?

Our analytical thinking, commitment to clarity, and attention to audience are skills that are sought after in every workplace. I would also say the program also introduces you to great people in adjacent programs like Professional Writing and Literary and Cultural Studies, who can enrich your experience in Rhetoric.

### What are you working on now?

I've been involved in a few different webpage redesigns to make information on NIH grants policies more accessible with clearer visual hierarchy. I'm working on content development and strategy for both external and internal outlets, ranging from promoting new resources for grant applicants/recipients to communicating key policy changes. I'm particularly excited to work on upcoming web content redesigns because I get to apply what I learned at CMU and develop project management skills.

English  
is  
Here.