



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>

## B.S., Minor, & Certificate in Technical Writing and Communication

Make your career success a priority by joining a creative, yet technical field that is estimated to expand by 12% in 2019.

### What is Technical Writing and Communication?

Technical Writing and Communication (TWC) involves communicating complex information to specific audiences with clarity and accuracy. Technical communicators write, organize, edit, and design information

### Why major or minor in TWC?

1. Combine your love of writing with a sub-plan in IT/Design, Biological and Health Sciences, Legal Discourse and Public Policy, or Environmental Science.
2. Network with alumni in our LinkedIn community and our advisory board about real-world writing and new job opportunities.
3. Become familiar with the latest writing and web technologies
4. Technical Writing is a stable career and essential industry that will not be replaced.
5. Be that unique person who understands technical or scientific information and can clearly explain it!

### -Potential Careers in TWC:

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| -Usability Tester            | -Project Manager       |
| -Digital Marketer            | -Data Visualist        |
| -Content Strategist/Marketer | -Blogger               |
| -Copyrighter                 | -Grant/Proposal Writer |
| -Information Architect       | -Legal Writer          |
| -Illustrator                 | -Programmer            |
| -Web Designer/Developer      |                        |
| -Video Producer              |                        |

### Major Requirements (52 credits):

- 37 WRIT credits through writing studies
- 15 sub-plan credits

### What sub-plans can I choose from?

- Information Technology & Design
- Biological & Health Sciences
- Legal Discourse & Public Policy
- Environmental Science

### Minor Requirements (16-18 credits):

- 10 core TWC credits
- 6 upper division elective credits (3xxx or 4xxx)

### Certificate Requirements (8 credits):

- WRIT 3562W
- 1 elective course
- Capstone

Need help with graduation & course planning?

Ready to declare your major?

Contact:

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College of Liberal Arts

Department of Writing Studies

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### Frequently asked questions:

#### -What activities can I do to explore a TWC major or minor?

Explore our four sub-plans and find out what area you're interested in. From there you can practice writing, start a blog, volunteer or work in the writing center.

#### -What courses do are recommended?

There are seven core TWC courses that all majors are required to take, and it is recommended that you take WRIT 3001 as soon as possible as that is the intro course. After that, the major offers a wide variety of electives and sub-plan courses. Try to pick electives that relate to your sub plan or that you have interest in.

#### -What internships are offered in TWC?

Many TWC students get an internship their sophomore or junior year, and there are a wide variety of positions to choose from. Areas such as editing, web design/development, IT, grant writing, medical writing, marketing, and communications are a few of the common internship fields. It is recommended that you look on Handshake, GoldPass, and LinkedIn as well as utilize the career services office when searching for internships.

#### -What is the most challenging part of a TWC major?

This major is going to challenge you to be flexible and adaptable. Some courses focus on writing and editing, while other courses may center around technology, history, methodology, or design. While not all courses may seem relevant or "your thing" the industry now expects technical writers to have knowledge in a variety of areas.

#### -What is one thing I should know before considering a major or minor in TWC?

You have more job options in this major than you think. Technical communicators are not just limited to writing, but many go into information architecture, design, legal positions, environmental science, and many other areas. Keep your mind open to all the possibilities this major can give you.

#### Get Employed At Companies Like:

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| -IBM     | -Google    |
| -Graco   | -3M        |
| -Allianz | -Medtronic |

#### Learn Skills Like:

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| -HTML      | -Tableau      |
| -Adobe CC  | -Editing      |
| -Usability | -Info Design  |
| -Rhetoric  | -Tech/Science |

#### Exclusive TWC Opportunities:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| -Sub-plan       | -Internships    |
| -B.S. in CLA    | -Student Jobs   |
| -Guest Speakers | -Alumni Network |
| -Capstone       | -Scholarships   |

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