

Introduction

As I write this now, there is no doubt in my mind that the RPW track has not only enhanced my writing skills but also contributed significantly to my personal growth. When I declared RPW as my major, I wanted to come out as a writer with a skillset that could get me hired, effectively negotiating my love of writing with employability. Not only have I become a skilled writer, but I have filled four job positions in these busy undergrad years: I have been an English research assistant, AWC Coordinator, technical editor, and a grant writer. All things considered, I am exceptionally proud of my accomplishments in the RPW track.

None of my accomplishments would've been possible without the support of the incredible faculty and classes at UC. Through a combination of interactive coursework, modern multimedia experiences, and built-in work experiences, I have honed my writing skills and developed a versatile toolkit that has prepared me for a variety of career paths within the writing industry.

Multimedia Experience

Three courses stand out as transformative experiences in introducing me to multimedia documents: Intro to Professional Writing, Writing for Parks and Museums, and Writing with Style.

- **Intro to Professional Writing:** In my second semester, I officially completed this class as one of the first prerequisites for the RPW program. By the end of my first year in college, I had a resume, portfolio, and formal design education, all of which would be instrumental in keeping me employed all through undergrad.
- **Writing for Parks and Museums:** I learned to portray narratives tailored to specific audiences through multimedia projects. Incredibly, with the help of some teammates, I was even able to produce signage for a local Cincinnati park, Avon Woods.
- **Writing with Style:** This class challenged me to analyze and emulate the writing styles of established authors and brand language. To do this, I compiled multimedia beyond traditional academic text (including coffee bags, advertisements, and novels) which helped build my experience with writing, editing, and replicating diverse texts.

Job Preparation

The most instrumental classes in preparing me for industry were: Intro to Professional Writing, Modern English Grammar, and Editing Documents. These classes led me to

produce documents that might be expected in a writing job, such as articles and style guides. More important than the products were the skills I honed across each class, like time management, organization, and leadership—skills that I marketed to land four important jobs during undergrad.

English Research Assistant

After my first year in the summer semester of 2021, I was offered a position (by Professor Wilson, actually!) to draft a literature review about the role of advisory boards in the English departments of universities. This position was my first opportunity to create academic documentation and communicate with faculty outside of classwork, especially considering my first year of undergrad was all virtual due to the pandemic. I experienced for the first time what a full-time job as a writer might be like and, most importantly, that I enjoyed what I did.

Technical Editing Intern at ServiceNow

I think of this job as the culmination of everything I learned at college. Completely of my own efforts, I applied to, interviewed, accepted, and relocated for this job in summer 2023. I returned to my hometown and, even while I worked through the nerves of fulfilling the needs of my first full-time job, that summer was the happiest I've ever been.

I worked in a team of senior editors who coached me on all aspects of technical editing: navigating editing software, communicating with writers, and managing project deliverables with supervisors. By the end of my internship, I had completed a project that saw the revision of over 1,000 instances of alt-text for images. Through this experience, I not only expanded my technical knowledge and communication skills but also developed invaluable professional bonds that will undoubtedly benefit me in the future.

AWC Coordinator

My work at the AWC has been the longest job I've worked, having been first employed in January 2022. In that time, I've helped teach the same writing strategies I've developed in class to students, fostering in them the ability to write and digest media. Working with so many different students over such diverse genres (resumes, thesis projects, collages, essays, etc.) has allowed me to develop communication, teaching, and editing skills I would never have learned otherwise. I found a passion in teaching people how to communicate their thoughts in writing, and I have the AWC to thank for that.

I was promoted from a tutor to coordinator in August 2023 and now help manage training and organizational tasks of tutors, such as recording timecards and hosting monthly meetings. As part of my Copyediting & Publishing internship—a partnership

between the AWC and the certificate—I have also had the pleasure of generating a proposal for measures the AWC might take against AI. This document is extensive, a true culmination of the skills I’ve developed across many jobs and classes at UC.

CRRH Grant Writer

Another wonderful result of the RPW track is, of course, the opportunity to work for real organizations here in Cincinnati. My group has developed a strong, professional relationship with the Cincinnati Recycling & Reuse Hub (CRRH), and I have been incredibly pleased to have produced boilerplate text that has already been used in multiple grant applications. Like so many of the other jobs I’ve held, this position has revealed to me that I could truly flourish in a writing career after school, perhaps even as a grant writer.

Conclusion

During my time as an RPW undergraduate, I participated in diverse, hands-on experiences both in and out of the classroom that have shaped my development as a professional writer. From generating multimedia, editing technical documents, and most recently grant writing, each facet of my education has contributed to my growth as a writer and communicator.

As I embark on the next chapter of my professional journey, I carry with me the skills, knowledge, and passion instilled by my undergraduate experience. Because of the incredible faculty and experiences at UC, I am emerging from undergraduate confident in my ability to make meaningful contributions to the world through the power of language. I am extraordinarily proud of the progress I have made during my four years in the RPW track.