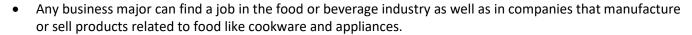All the full drafts in this course focus on the food and beverage industry and food and beverages more generally. I have chosen this focus for the following reasons.

1. To focus on a topic everyone can relate to

Every career can involve food or beverage in some way.

- Any major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences connects to food.

- Engineers design machines that process and package food and beverages as well as the appliances people use to preserve, cook, and store food and beverages.

- Engineers and scientists examine food's chemical composition, green and sustainable production, and food transportation and distribution.

- Any business major can find a job in the food or beverage industry as well as in companies that manufacture or sell products related to food like cookware and appliances.
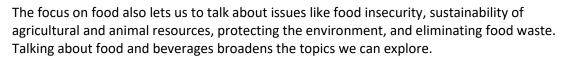
- Computer scientists develop programs that keep machines processing and inventorying products—and they develop the online presences and stores for these products.

- Computer scientists and engineers manage the software and hardware that keep businesses running (from operating systems to word processors and spreadsheets).

- Architecture, building construction, and real estate majors all participate in designing, building, and selling the spaces where food is stored, prepared, cooked, and eaten.

In short, *everyone* can have a job in the food industry, regardless of their major. It may not be the path that you ultimately take, but it's a topic everyone can relate to.

2. To examine ethical issues that everyone understands

Because this is a Pathways course, we discuss ethical issues relating to technical writing. We can consider the importance of honesty, inclusion, clarity, and the other principles for ethical communication.

The focus on food also lets us to talk about issues like food insecurity, sustainability of agricultural and animal resources, protecting the environment, and eliminating food waste. Talking about food and beverages broadens the topics we can explore.

3. To bridge writing in the workplace to other locations of technical writing

Technical writing definitely takes place in the workplace, but it can take place outside the workplace as well. You can complete technical writing work in your community, in social organizations, and even with family and friends.

Focusing on food makes it easier to include writing in scenarios that take place outside the workplace. Further, students in the course who do not have any industry experience can feel more comfortable focusing on community and family writing contexts.