

Ph.D. in Professional Writing

Purdue's Ph.D. second field in technical and professional writing is noted for its expertise in teaching and researching computer-based writing, for its emphasis on collaboration, for its critical approach to the design of instructional technologies, and for its innovative faculty and doctoral research, particularly focusing on intersections between rhetoric theory and professional writing.

Graduate students in English desiring formal credentials in technical and professional writing may choose it as a secondary Ph.D. area. This secondary area in technical and professional writing is geared primarily to preparing doctoral students for university-level teaching and research positions—but several program alumni have found their credentials valuable in securing employment in the computer industry.

Students must complete three recommended graduate courses and a fourth graduate course from a list of options. Students wishing to substitute a course not appearing on the list of approved options can petition the professional writing area committee to seek approval for the substitution.

Additional information regarding the Graduate Program in Professional Writing can be requested from:

Office of Graduate Studies
Department of English
Heavilon Hall
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907
(765) 494-3748



For further information regarding the Professional Writing Undergraduate Program, contact:

Linda Haynes
Undergraduate Advisor
1369 Liberal Arts and Education Bldg.
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907
Phone: (765) 494-3670
Fax: (765) 496-1910
<http://addison.english.purdue.edu/pw/>



Purdue is an equal opportunity university.



Professional Writing at Purdue University

Created by members of the
Spring 2000 English 515
Advanced Professional Writing Course.






The Professional Writing Program at Purdue University was designed to prepare students to be writing specialists within different organizations. Students are prepared for careers such as: publishers, reviewers, information designers and developers, editors and technical writers.



The program is designed with special emphasis on reader awareness, group work, and project planning. All professional writing courses stress the importance of defining the needs of the rhetorical setting: determining who the readers are, what they need, and what medium and document form will best meet those needs. Along with this awareness of readers comes an obligation to them, an ethical responsibility not to mislead, but to present information and others' positions accurately and fairly. Most classes are taught in networked computer labs to help instruct students on the technologies they will need to know for the workplace.

Each student in the program has a choice of following either the Editing and Publishing path or the Technical Writing path. These options provide students different career paths to follow.

Some of the companies that employ PW graduates include:

-  3-Com
-  Tellabs
-  Tivoli
-  USA Group
-  Micro Database Systems

Editing and Publishing

The curriculum for the Editing and Publishing program focuses on the aesthetic and creative side of writing. Students are taught the skills they would need to prepare for careers as potential magazine writers, editors, reviewers, and publishers in non-profit organizations, art federations, small businesses and large corporations. Students are encouraged to share their ideas, opinions, and criticisms of their own and professional work. The faculty for these courses are often published authors themselves.

Technical Writing

Included in the Technical Writing curriculum are courses that teach students the design principles for a career in print or online documentation, as well as technical writing and editing. Students are taught to operate scanners, design web pages, and use popular design software for projects. Technical minors are also encouraged for Technical Writing students.

Faculty

The Professional Writing faculty comes from a wide range of backgrounds and education. Many had worked as writers in the industry before coming back to the university setting to teach. Other faculty members consult on an individual basis, but act as full-time instructors.

Professional Writing Club

The Professional Writing Club, more commonly known as PW Ink, was formed in 1999 as an aid for the professional writing students. The club brings in speakers from a variety of professions within the writing field to speak to the students on what is happening in the workplace. The club also sponsors field trips to various companies to allow the students to see what actually goes on in the workplace. Club members often sponsor and present tutorials that outline current and upcoming computer programs that assist students in the Professional Writing major. One of the primary purposes of the club, however, is to act as a receptacle for ideas among professional writing students. The students are encouraged to share potential project ideas, problems within the major, and anything else that may come to mind. The club works closely with the professional writing faculty to monitor what is going on within the program, and to make suggestions for what they think would be useful.

