TECHNICAL WRITING, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The Department of English offers an 18-credit minor leading to a Technical Writing certificate to all students, regardless of major or college, who want to do concentrated work in technical writing.

What is Technical Writing?

The Minor in Technical Writing responds to the growing need in business, industry, and government for people who can communicate the results of technical work at a level of competence substantially above that usually found in beginning professionals. Indeed, industry and government leaders testify repeatedly that professional success depends both on excellent professional work and on the powerful communication of that work. This 18-credit minor provides all undergraduate students, regardless of college or major, the opportunity for concentrated work in technical writing.

Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	18

Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better		
ENGL 418	Advanced Technical Writing and Editing	3
Additional Courses [1]		
Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better		
Select 3-6 credits from the following:		3-6
CAS 452	Organizational Communication Theory and Research	
CAS 452W	Organizational Communication Theory and Research	
ENGL 470	Rhetorical Theory and Practice	
ENGL 471	Rhetorical Traditions	
ENGL 472	Current Theories of Writing and Reading	
ENGL 473	Rhetorical Approaches to Discourse	
ENGL 474	Issues in Rhetoric and Composition	
STS/PHIL 407		
STS/PHIL 433	Ethics in Science and Engineering	
Select 6-9 credits from the following:		6-9
ENGL 415	Advanced Nonfiction Writing	
ENGL 416	Science Writing	
ENGL 417	The Editorial Process	
ENGL 419	Advanced Business Writing	
ENGL 420	Writing for the Web	
ENGL 421	Advanced Expository Writing	
ENGL 480	Communication Design for Writers	
ENGL 495	Internship	
Select 3-6 credits from the following:		3-6
ART 2	Interactive Learning and Web-Design	
ART 3	Visual Images on the Web	
ART 101	Introduction to Web Design	
GD 100	Introduction to Graphic Design	
LDT 100	World Technologies and Learning	
INSYS 441	Design, Development, and Evaluation of Internet Resources	
PSYCH 444	Engineering Psychology	
PSYCH 456	Advanced Cognitive Psychology	
Supporting Courses and Related Areas [1]		
Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better		
Select 0-3 credits		0-3

[1]   Some courses in this category may have prerequisites that are not required in the minor.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

harrisburg

Russell Kirkscey
Assistant Professor of English and Technical and Professional Writing
W355 Olmsted Building
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6189
trk82@psu.edu

New Kensington

Andrea Adolph

Director of Academic Affairs
3550 Seventh Street Rd.
New Kensington, PA 15068
724-334-6031
aea13@psu.edu

Contact
University Park
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
113 Burrowes Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-8032
selber@psu.edu

https://english.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/

Harrisburg
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES
W355 Olmsted Building
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6189
trk82@psu.edu

New Kensington
3550 Seventh Street Rd.
New Kensington, PA 15068
724-334-6031
aea13@psu.edu