

TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION, CERTIFICATE

The Technical Communication Certificate (TCC) has established itself as a program that meets industry and government agencies' demands for students with skills as communicators and for communication specialists. Because employers value well-developed communication skills, TCC courses will enhance success in co-op/intern positions and post-graduation careers. TCC graduates overwhelmingly confirm not only that the certificate gave them an edge over other candidates during the recruitment process, but also that the communication knowledge, skills, and attitudes they acquired while in the program helped them succeed in their jobs and helped prepare them for the diverse communication and management tasks in today's multifunctional team environments.

The Technical Communication Certificate, housed in the College of Engineering, complements all undergraduate degrees, but is especially designed to fit in well with an engineering degree. TCC students gain experience in career-applicable skills by

- Receiving education in principles and processes for communicating about technical subjects (including problem solving methods, audience analysis, rhetorical analysis, conventions of format, and usability testing).
- Gaining education in the fundamentals of written, oral, and visual communication (including organization, structure, style, mechanics, format, and delivery).
- Learning effective interpersonal communication and management skills (including teamwork, interviewing, leading and facilitating groups, project management, and international communication).
- Gaining opportunities to research and think analytically about contemporary issues and to consider ethical issues.
- Using current technology to encourage effective communication in a variety of environments (including use of the web, distance communication, electronic publishing, group software, and layout and presentation software).

While the certificate is designed especially for engineering students, students from other fields sometimes seek out the program to enhance their career options. Students who complete the certificate will have the notation "Technical Communication Certificate" added to their transcripts.

Aside from the relevant courses offered in the TCC, students especially value the close contact with faculty through advising and development of a TC Certificate Portfolio. Students in the program often take on leadership roles in other college or campus student organizations and projects, further developing their communication, team, and management skills.