

Technical Communication (Lewis Department of Humanities)

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Technical communication addresses two concerns: the effective communication of technical information (to both technical and lay audiences), and the effective use of technology to convey, manage, and analyze information, especially in business, industry, education, and government. Thus technical communicators may take on challenges as diverse as designing an effective e-commerce website, writing instructional materials for a training course, or evaluating the understandability of synthetic speech.

The Lewis Department of Humanities' graduate programs in technical communication prepare students for professional, academic, and research careers in technical communication. Master's students develop their knowledge of principles for communicating effectively in traditional and electronic media, often with an emphasis on workplace applications. Doctoral students develop the theoretical and methodological foundations for conducting original research in a rapidly evolving and often interdisciplinary field. Class schedules accommodate working professionals, and students may enroll on either a full-time or part-time basis.

Degrees Offered

Master of Science in Technical Communication and Information Design

Master of Science in Information Architecture
 Doctor of Philosophy in Technical Communication

Certificate Programs

Instructional Design
 Technical Communication

Research Facilities

The department supports a Usability Testing and Evaluation Center; an editing center, Edit IIT; Gewgaws Lab, a physical and virtual design production lab focused on open source; and a Speech Analysis Lab for applied research on natural and synthesized speech. IIT's Galvin Library subscribes to more than 120 electronic databases

with more than 25,000 full-text journals and is part of CARLI, which through I-Share provides access to more than 32 million items across Illinois academic library collections. Students have access to computer labs across the IIT campus, some of which also serve as classrooms for technical communication courses.

Research Areas

Humanities department faculty conduct research in a wide range of areas. Among those especially relevant to technical communication are aesthetics; document and online design; ethics in the professions; history of art and architecture; humanizing technology; information seek-

ing and retrieval; instructional design; intellectual property; knowledge management; linguistics; philosophy of science; rhetorical theory; social media; text analysis; and usability testing.

Faculty

Matthew J. Bauer, Assistant Professor of Linguistics and Director of the Speech Analysis Lab. B.A., University of Minnesota, Duluth; M.S., Ph.D., Georgetown University.

Glenn J. Broadhead, Associate Professor of English. B.A., Los Angeles State College; M.A., Ph.D., University of California, Davis.

James Dabbert, Senior Lecturer, English, Director of the Writing Center, and Associate Director of ESL. B.A., M.A., Indiana University.

Michael Davis, Professor of Philosophy. B.A., Western Reserve University; Ph.D., University of Michigan.

Maureen Flanagan, Professor of History and Chair of the Humanities Department. B.A., Dominican College; Ph.D., Loyola University of Chicago.

Libby Hemphill, Assistant Professor of Technical Communication. A.B., University of Chicago; M.S., Ph.D., University of Michigan.

Robert F. Ladenson, Professor of Philosophy. B.A., University of Wisconsin; Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University; J.D., DePaul University.

Jahna Otterbacher, Assistant Professor of Technical Communication. B.A., M.A., University of Michigan; M.A., Boston University; Ph.D., University of Michigan.

Margaret Power, Professor of History. B.A., Ph.D., University of Illinois, Chicago.

Gregory J. Pulliam, Senior Lecturer, English, Associate Chair of the Humanities Department, Undergraduate Advisor, and Director of ESL. B.A., Memphis State University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Missouri.

Kathryn Riley, Professor of English, Co-Director of Graduate Studies, and Director of Edit IIT. B.A., University of Maryland; M.A., Georgia State University; Ph.D. (English), University of Maryland; Ph.D. (Linguistics), Louisiana State University.

Warren S. Schmaus, Professor of Philosophy and Co-Director of Graduate Studies. A.B., Princeton University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh.

John W. Snapper, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Academic Policy Coordinator. B.A., Princeton University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Chicago.

Karl A. Stolley, Assistant Professor of Technical Communication, Director of Gewgaws Lab, and Co-Director of the Usability Testing and Evaluation Center. B.A., Millikin University; M.A., Ph.D., Purdue University. <http://karlstolley.com>

Admission Guidelines (Master's Degrees)

Applicants to the master's program come from a variety of backgrounds. Some students enter with strong writing or design ability and learn to apply those skills in technical and scientific areas, while other students enter with a technical or scientific background and learn to enhance their communication skills. The program's goal is to help students build upon existing strengths and develop new areas of expertise.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year institution with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0/4.0.

In addition to the application form, the applicant must submit the following:

1. Professional statement discussing the applicant's professional and academic preparation and goals
2. Two letters of recommendation from faculty of supervisors who can evaluate the applicant's potential for graduate-level work

3. Official transcripts, or certified copies thereof, of all academic work at the college level or above
4. Required test scores

All applicants are required to submit Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores with a minimum combined score of 1000 quantitative + verbal (with a minimum score of 500 in each area) and 3.0 (analytical writing).

International students must submit TOEFL scores unless they are exempt as specified in the International Applicant Requirements of this bulletin. The minimum TOEFL score is 95, with minimum section scores of 20 each in the Listening, Reading, and Writing sections.

Note: Enrolling in courses does not guarantee later acceptance into a degree program, nor does meeting the minimum admission requirements. Students who enter as non-degree or certificate students should first discuss their plans with one of the co-directors of graduate studies.

Admission Guidelines (Ph.D. Program)

The doctoral program in technical communication at IIT prepares students for careers in research and teaching at the postsecondary level, as well as for advanced supervisory and research positions in business and government. Building on a base of skills in workplace practices, the program incorporates theory-oriented advanced readings, seminars, and dissertation research leading to original contributions to scholarship in the field.

Students enter the Ph.D. program from a wide range of fields, but should have substantial academic preparation or professional experience related to technical communication.

Applicants must have completed a bachelor's or master's degree in a field that, in combination with the 27-credit-hour technical core, would provide a solid basis for advanced academic work leading to original research in the field. The relevance of previous degrees to the doctoral program will be assessed by the department's graduate admissions committee.

In addition to the application form, the applicant must submit the following:

1. Professional statement discussing the applicant's professional and academic preparation, research interests, and goals
2. Three letters of recommendation from faculty or supervisors who can evaluate the applicant's potential for advanced academic work
3. Official transcripts, or certified copies thereof, of all academic work at the college level or above
4. Required test scores

All applicants are required to submit Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores with a minimum combined score of 1000 quantitative + verbal (with a minimum score of 500 in each area) and 3.0 (analytical writing).

International students must submit TOEFL scores unless they are exempt as specified in the international Applicant Requirements of this bulletin. The minimum TOEFL score is 95, with minimum section scores of 20 each in the Listening, Reading, and Writing sections.

Note: Enrolling in courses does not guarantee later acceptance into a degree program, nor does meeting the minimum admission requirements. Students who enter as non-degree or certificate students should first discuss their plans with one of the co-directors of graduate studies.

Master of Science in Technical Communication and Information Design

33 credit hours (project option) or 30 credit hours (thesis option)

Project review or comprehensive examination

Project or Thesis

The M.S. in Technical Communication and Information Design provides an understanding of communication practices, familiarity with information and communication technologies, and an awareness of the importance of collaboration in enhancing the flow of information throughout an organization.

Students preparing for careers as technical communicators are advised to take the project option, while students preparing for a Ph.D. may wish to take the thesis option. Students may apply up to six hours of credit in one of the following courses: COM 594 (Project) or COM 591 (Thesis).

Required courses

COM 525 Usability Testing and Evaluation

COM 528 Document Design

COM 529 Technical Editing

COM 530 Standards-Based Web Design

COM 543 Publication Management

Electives

COM 428 Verbal and Visual Communication

COM 430 Introduction to Web Design and Management

COM 431 Intermediate Web Design and Management

COM 432 Advanced Web Design and Management

COM 435 Intercultural Communication

COM 501 Introduction to Linguistics

COM 506 World Englishes

COM 508 Structure of Modern English

COM 509 History of the English Language

COM 515 Discourse Analysis

COM 532 Rhetoric of Technology

COM 535 Instructional Design

COM 536 Proposal and Grant Writing

COM 538 Entrepreneurship in Technical Communication

COM 541 Information Structure and Retrieval

COM 542 Knowledge Management

COM 545 Writing for Academic Publication

COM 553 Globalization and Localization

COM 561 Teaching Technical Communication

COM 571 Persuasion

COM 577 Communication Law and Ethics

COM 580 Topics in Communication

COM 585 Internship

COM 601 Research Methods and Resources

Other courses as approved by the student's advisor and one of the co-directors of graduate studies. No more than 9 hours of 400-level courses may be counted toward the degree.

Master of Science in Information Architecture

36 credit hours (project option) or 33 credit hours (thesis option)

Project review or comprehensive examination

Project or Thesis

The M.S. in Information Architecture enhances a technical communication core with specialized concepts, skills, and tools for designing, implementing, and managing websites and related digital media. This degree provides students with expertise for a number of tasks relevant to mid-level and advanced positions in the workplace: website design, website project management, information structure and retrieval, knowledge management, and usability testing and evaluation.

Students preparing for careers as technical communicators are advised to take the project option, while students preparing for a Ph.D. may wish to take the thesis option. Students may apply up to six hours of credit in one of the following courses: COM 594 (Project) or COM 591 (Thesis).

Required courses

- COM 525 Usability Testing and Evaluation
- COM 528 Document Design
- COM 530 Standards-Based Web Design
- COM 541 Information Structure and Retrieval
- COM 542 Knowledge Management
- COM 543 Publication Management

Electives

- COM 428 Verbal and Visual Communication
- COM 430 Introduction to Web Design and Management
- COM 431 Intermediate Web Design and Management
- COM 432 Advanced Web Design and Management
- COM 435 Intercultural Communication
- COM 501 Introduction to Linguistics
- COM 506 World Englishes
- COM 508 Structure of Modern English
- COM 509 History of the English Language
- COM 515 Discourse Analysis
- COM 532 Rhetoric of Technology
- COM 535 Instructional Design
- COM 536 Proposal and Grant Writing
- COM 538 Entrepreneurship in Technical Communication
- COM 541 Information Structure and Retrieval
- COM 542 Knowledge Management
- COM 545 Writing for Academic Publication
- COM 553 Globalization and Localization
- COM 561 Teaching Technical Communication
- COM 571 Persuasion
- COM 577 Communication Law and Ethics
- COM 580 Topics in Communication
- COM 585 Internship
- COM 601 Research Methods and Resources

Other courses as approved by the student's advisor and one of the co-directors of graduate studies. No more than 9 hours of 400-level courses may be counted toward the degree.

Doctor of Philosophy in Technical Communication

84 credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree, including

- Technical communication core (27 credit hours)
- Electives (minimum of 18 credit hours)
- Dissertation research (minimum of 24 credit hours)
- Additional electives or dissertation research (as needed to achieve total of 84)

Qualifying examination
Comprehensive examination
Dissertation
Dissertation examination

Transfer Units

Students who have already earned master's degrees or undertaken graduate work in relevant fields may transfer credit hours toward the doctoral degree (up to 36 credit hours for graduate coursework in relevant fields at IIT, up to 30 credit hours for graduate coursework in relevant fields at other institutions).

Course Requirements (Details)

Required Courses

Technical Communication Core (27 credit hours):

- COM 521 Key Concepts in Technical Communication
- COM 525 Usability Testing and Evaluation
- COM 529 Technical Editing
- COM 541 Information Structure and Retrieval
- COM 542 Knowledge Management
- COM 543 Publication Management
- COM 601 Research Methods and Resources

One of the following:

- COM 528 Document Design
- COM 530 Standards-Based Web Design
- COM 535 Instructional Design

One of the following:

- COM 501 Introduction to Linguistics
- COM 506 World Englishes
- COM 508 Structure of Modern English
- COM 509 History of the English Language
- COM 515 Discourse Analysis

Electives (at least 18 credit hours)

- COM 501 Introduction to Linguistics
- COM 506 World Englishes
- COM 508 Structure of Modern English
- COM 509 History of the English Language
- COM 515 Discourse Analysis
- COM 528 Document Design
- COM 530 Standards-Based Web Design
- COM 532 Rhetoric of Technology
- COM 535 Instructional Design
- COM 536 Proposal and Grant Writing
- COM 538 Entrepreneurship in Technical Communication
- COM 545 Writing for Academic Publication
- COM 553 Globalization and Localization
- COM 561 Teaching Technical Communication
- COM 571 Persuasion
- COM 577 Communication Law and Ethics
- COM 580 Topics in Communication

Other courses as approved by the student's advisor and one of the co-directors of graduate studies. No more than 9 hours of 400-level courses may be counted toward the degree.

Dissertation Research

- COM 691 Research and Dissertation for Ph.D. degree (at least 24 credit hours)

Additional Courses

Additional coursework or dissertation research sufficient to meet the requirement of 84 credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree. All work for a doctoral degree should be completed within six calendar years after the approval of the program of study; if it is not, then the student must re-pass the Qualifying Examination.

Examinations

The Qualifying examination is a structured discussion based on a portfolio consisting of four elements: (1) deliverables and explanatory material for a master's-level project (or its equivalent); (2) a collection of significant course papers and assignments completed as part of the Technical Communication Core (or as part of equivalent study elsewhere); (3) a bibliographic essay identifying significant trends in recent research in technical communication (or successful completion of COM 521, Key Concepts in Technical Communication); (4) a substantial essay that introduces and analyzes the other materials in the portfolio and shows how they constitute a coherent program of study in preparation for advanced work toward the doctorate. The examining committee must include a minimum of four faculty members. The Qualifying Exam must be taken within the first year of work toward the doctoral degree, and the student must be registered when the exam is administered. If the student fails the Qualifying Examination, the examining committee may recommend a re-examination. At least one semester of additional preparation is considered essential before re-examination. The second chance for taking the Qualifying Exam is regarded as final. Any additional considerations must be petitioned and approved by the graduate dean.

The Comprehensive Examination is a structured discussion based on (a) a portfolio of course papers, projects, and readings completed as part of coursework undertaken in preparation for the doctorate, along with (b) a proposal for the doctoral dissertation. The examinee should demonstrate expertise in the area or areas relevant to

the proposed dissertation. The examining committee must consist of at least four tenured or tenure-track faculty members, including three members of the technical communication faculty and one other faculty member from a Ph.D.-granting academic unit at IIT other than the Humanities Department. In some cases, students may wish to add a fifth member from the Humanities Department. Students usually take the Comprehensive Exam at the end of the second year of doctoral study, but no later than one year prior to the Dissertation Examination. The student must be registered at the time of the exam.

The Dissertation Examination is a structured discussion of the dissertation and its scholarly context. Like the Comprehensive Examination Committee, the Dissertation Committee must consist of at least four tenured or tenure-track faculty members, including three from technical communication and one from a Ph.D.-granting academic unit at IIT other than the Humanities Department. (This exam is called the Final Thesis Examination in the current Graduate Bulletin.)

Dissertation

The dissertation should constitute an original contribution to scholarship in technical communication and may address areas of interaction between technical communication and other disciplines (e.g., history, linguistics, literature, philosophy, and rhetoric/composition). The research topic and method may be empirical (perhaps employing the facilities of the Usability Testing and Evaluation Center or Speech Analysis Lab), pedagogical, historical, or theoretical.

Certificate Programs

Admission Guidelines

Applicants must have a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.5/4.0 and must be admitted as a graduate certificate student. Certificate students who later apply to one of the department's M.S. programs or the Ph.D. program must meet the admission guidelines for that program. All coursework taken toward a certificate in technical communication or in instructional design and

passed with a grade of "B" or better may also be applied to the M.S. in Technical Communication and Information Design, the M.S. in Information Architecture, or the Ph.D. in Technical Communication (for students who are admitted to one of those programs), as long as those courses were not applied to another degree. However, no more than 9 hours of 400-level coursework may be counted toward a degree program.

Certificate in Technical Communication

This certificate is designed for students seeking an entry-level position as a technical communicator in a broad range of fields (e.g., industry, manufacturing, health care, publishing and advertising, and government agencies). The program consists of 12 credit hours of coursework (four courses).

Required courses

COM 525 Usability Testing and Evaluation

COM 528 Document Design **OR**

COM 424 Document Design

COM 529 Technical Editing **OR**

COM 425 Editing

AND One of the following:

COM 530 Standards-Based Web Design

COM 428 Verbal and Visual Communication

COM 435 Intercultural Communication

COM 523 Communicating Science

Certificate in Instructional Design

This certificate is primarily for experienced technical communicators who wish to acquire focused competency in instructional design. Graduates of this certificate program can serve as information specialists to systematically design and develop instructional materials and training programs for businesses, individuals, health and education institutions, and government. This certificate teaches the core concepts, instructional methods, and assessment instruments for designing materials using various forms of text, visual media, technology, and instructional techniques. The program consists of 15 credit hours (five required courses).

Required courses

COM 424 Document Design **OR**

COM 528 Document Design

COM 525 Usability Testing and Evaluation

COM 530 Standards-Based Web Design

COM 535 Instructional Design

COM 542 Knowledge Management

Course Descriptions

Numbers in parentheses indicate class, lab, and credit hours, respectively.

COM 501

Introduction to Linguistics

An introduction to the systematic study of language. Focus on the core areas of linguistics, such as sound patterns of language (phonology), form (syntax, morphology) and meaning (semantics, pragmatics), as well as applied areas, such as language variation, language acquisition, psychology of language, and the origin of language.

(3-0-3)

COM 506

World Englishes

Analysis of the variations of the English language throughout geographic and cultural regions of the world.

(3-0-3)

COM 508

Structure of Modern English

Analysis of English grammar from four major perspectives: prescriptive, descriptive, transformational-generative, and contextual perspectives. Different methods for analyzing sentences, ways of applying each method to problems in editing and writing, and contributions of linguists such as Noam Chomsky. While focusing on sentence structure, students also look at the structure of words (morphology) and larger units of text (discourse) at various points in the semester.

(3-0-3)

COM 509

History of the English Language

Study of the origins and development of key features of the English language through its important stages, including Old, Middle, and Early Modern English.

(3-0-3)

COM 515

Discourse Analysis

Analysis of spoken and written texts on the intersentential and metalinguistic levels (e.g., semantic roles; given-new information; deixis and anaphora; presupposition and entailment; direct and indirect speech acts; schema theory). Applications to social and professional issues such as intercultural communication; sociopolitical discourse; discourse in educational, legal, and medical settings; narratives and literary texts.

(3-0-3)

COM 521

Key Concepts in Technical Communication

Broad coverage of concepts and issues in current and classic scholarship in the field of technical communication.

(3-0-3)

COM 523

Communicating Science

This course focuses on strategies for communicating scientific information in professional settings. Students develop a literature review, proposal, and feasibility study; learn how to adapt scientific information to various audiences; and complete exercises on style, grammar, and other elements of effective professional communication. Emphasis on usability, cohesion, and style in each assignment.

(3-0-3)

COM 525

Usability Testing and Evaluation

An introduction to methods available for conducting research and usability testing. Students will learn how to plan and conduct tests that measure the efficiency and effectiveness of a design or product. Course work includes identifying and testing tasks, interpreting data, and reporting findings.

(3-0-3)

COM 528

Document Design

Principles and strategies for effective document and information design, focusing on print media and familiarizing students with current research and theory as well as with practices in document design. Students design, produce, and evaluate documents for a variety of applications, such as instructional materials, brochures, newsletters, graphics, and tables.

(3-0-3)

COM 529

Technical Editing

Principles and strategies for editing at all levels, working with both hard and soft copy. Includes practice in copyediting, copyediting, proofreading, editing for grammar and style, and comprehensive editing. Attention primarily to documents from science, technology, and business.

(3-0-3)

COM 530

Standards-Based Web Design

Theory and practice of structuring and designing information for web-enabled devices. This course emphasizes web standards, accessibility, and agile design methods.

(3-0-3)

COM 532

Rhetoric of Technology

A course that explores the theoretical and applied intersections of the rhetorical tradition and digital communication technologies.

(3-0-3)

COM 535

Instructional Design

Teaches the essentials for the development of instructional materials, including analysis of human performance problems, strategic interventions, specified learning tasks, and validation instruments.

(3-0-3)

COM 536

Proposal and Grant Writing

Course covers all aspects of federal and foundation proposal cycle, from proposal development through review and decision-making process. Emphasis on research proposals incorporating quantitative and qualitative methods, but activity-based proposals addressed as well.

(3-0-3)

COM 538

Entrepreneurship in Technical Communication

Corporate and independent roles of technical communicators. Concepts and techniques needed to market services or to address the marketing needs of clients. Modes, goals and strategies for verbal and written interaction with clients, corporate decision-makers, and communication staff, with attention to presentation technologies.

(3-0-3)

COM 541

Information Source and Retrieval

An examination of conceptual foundations and applied uses of structured languages and databases for structuring information, with an emphasis on approaches to single-sourcing materials for presentation in digital and print formats.

(3-0-3)

COM 542

Knowledge Management

Analysis of the nature and uses of systems and knowledge in business and professional settings, focusing on the technical communicator's roles and tasks in generating and transferring data, information and knowledge within organizations.

(3-0-3)

COM 543

Publication Management

Intensive work developing and using systems to create and deliver content digitally and in print. Special emphasis on project management and large-team collaboration. Prereq/Coreq: COM 530, COM 541, or COM 542.

(3-0-3)

COM 545

Writing for Academic Publication

Practice in developing written and spoken academic genres (e.g., reviews, articles, conference papers, CVs, job talks). Special attention to analyzing and evaluating academic journals; submitting items to journals and conferences; managing time during the research, writing, and publication process; revising work and providing feedback to others; and mastering the conventions of academic writing.

(3-0-3)

COM 553

Globalization and Localization

Localization and globalization in international communication. Special problems in managing publication projects for global audiences (acontextual) and local audiences (highly contextualized), with emphasis on design issues, personnel issues, quality assurance, software internationalization, and ISO 9000 standards.

(3-0-3)

COM 561

Teaching Technical Communication

Principles, strategies, and resources for teaching technical communication and for developing and assessing technical communication curricula, especially at the postsecondary level.

(3-0-3)

COM 571

Persuasion

The study of covert and overt persuasion and their influences on society and individuals.

(3-0-3)

COM 577

Communication Law and Ethics

This course explores ethical and legal issues concerning communication in diverse contexts: mass media (e.g., print, broadcast, and electronic); government and politics; organizations (e.g., workplaces in public and private sectors); academic life (e.g., classroom, student, and faculty affairs); and interpersonal relations (e.g., love, friendship, marriage). Students research and write an article-length paper, and may also do additional research and/or classroom work. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

(3-0-3)

COM 580

Topics in Communication

An investigation into a topic of current interest in communication, which will be announced by the instructor when the course is scheduled. Advanced study of communication issues, theories, and practices relevant to science, technology, and industry settings. Repeatable for up to 9 credit hours.

(3-0-3)

COM 585

Internship

The internship is a cooperative arrangement between IIT and industry. It provides students with hands-on experience in the field of technical communication and information design. Credit: Variable.

(3-0-3)

COM 591

Thesis

Individual study of a topic relevant to a degree or certificate in technical communication, information design, or instructional design.

(3-0-3)

COM 594

Project

Projects will require students to complete a theoretically based analysis of a practical communication situation, create a document appropriate to the situation, and write an analysis of or commentary on the choices made in the production of the document. (Credit: Variable. Most M.S. students take six credits of project studies.)

(3-0-3)

COM 597

Special Problems

Advanced topics in literature, language or communication studies.

COM 601

Research Methods and Resources

This course addresses the logic of research design. The first part of the course focuses on formulating clear research questions and hypotheses. The second part addresses various designs (surveys, correlations, experiments, mixed designs, etc.) and their potential to test hypotheses.

(3-0-3)

COM 691

Research and Thesis for Ph.D

This is a variable credit course for Ph.D. candidates working on their dissertation. Credit hours: 1-20. Prerequisites: Ph.D. candidates only.

Undergraduate Courses Available to Graduate Students

COM 401

Advanced Composition and Prose Analysis

Critical analysis of various types of prose, with stress on the art as well as the craft of writing. The student is required to write several critical papers. Prerequisite: Satisfaction of IIT's Basic Writing Proficiency Requirement. (C)

(3-0-3)

COM 421

Technical Communication

Principles and practice in the communication of technical materials. Students work on the design, writing and revising of reports, articles, manuals, procedures and proposals, including the use of graphics. Works by modern writers are analyzed. Credit not granted for both COM 421 and MT 301. Prerequisite: Satisfaction of IIT's Basic Writing Proficiency Requirement.(C)
(3-0-3)

COM 423

Communication in the Workplace

A study of communication related to science and technology in entrepreneurial, corporate, government, and public service environments. This course focuses on problem-solving genres (proposals and recommendation reports) and on common patterns of ideas found in such documents (e.g., process/steps, whole/parts, event/effects, event/causes, claim/reasons). Prerequisite: Satisfaction of IIT's Basic Writing Proficiency Requirement.(C)
(3-0-3)

COM 424

Document Design

Principles and strategies for effective document and information design, focusing on print media. Students design, produce, and evaluate documents for a variety of applications, such as instructional materials, brochures, newsletters, graphics, and tables.
(3-0-3)

COM 425

Editing

Principles and strategies for editing at all levels, working with both hard and soft copy. Includes practice in copyediting, copyediting, proofreading, editing for grammar and style, and comprehensive editing. Attention primarily to documents from science, technology, and business.
(3-0-3)

COM 428

Verbal and Visual Communication

Introduces students to the issues, strategies, and ethics of technical and professional presentation, and provides students with opportunities to engage in public address, video presentations and conferencing, and group presentations. Analysis of audience types and presentation situations, group dynamics, persuasive theories, language and mass media.
(3-0-3)

COM 430

Introduction to Web Design and Management

Presupposing only that students know how to use a web browser, this course teaches beginning HTML, basic page layout and design principles, basic multimedia, and the structures of websites, and also introduces students to WYSIWYG webpage-generation software and FTP software.
(3-0-3)

COM 431

Intermediate Web Design and Management

A continuation of COM 430, this course goes more deeply into HTML, multimedia, and some of the advanced features of WYSIWYG editors. Prerequisite: COM 430 or permission of instructor.
(3-0-3)

COM 432

Advanced Web Design and Management

A continuation of COM 430 and COM 431, this course covers the most current web technologies. Prerequisite: COM 431 or permission of instructor.
(3-0-3)

COM 435

Intercultural Communication

An introduction to the problems of communication across cultures, with emphasis on the interplay of American civilization with those of other cultural areas. Prerequisite: A 100-level humanities course and junior standing.(H)(C)
(3-0-3)

COM 437

Video Documentation

Planning and managing digital-video projects to document concepts and procedures in technology, science, business, and education. Attention to scripting, shooting, editing, and distribution media. Students will work on individual activities and collaborate on a community-service or other client-centered project.(H)(C)
(3-0-3)

COM 438

Technical Exhibit Design

Planning and managing informative and instructional exhibits in technical, scientific, and business contexts. Attention to characteristics and constraints of space, multimedia, and other resources, along with principles and goals of viewer access and flow. Students will work on individual activities and collaborate on a community-service or other client-centered project. Instruction will incorporate Chicago-area resources such as the Museum of Science and Industry.(C)
(3-0-3)

COM 440

Introduction to Journalism

Introduction to the principles and practices of modern American journalism. Students will analyze news stories and media, and will cover and report on campus area events. Student-generated news stories will be discussed, analyzed and evaluated. Prerequisites: A 100-level humanities course.(H)(C)
(3-0-3)

Other Undergraduate Courses Available to Graduate Students

AAH 491

Independent Reading and Research in Art and Architectural History

HIST 491

Independent Reading and Research in History

PHIL 491

Independent Reading and Research in Philosophy