
Technical Communication (Lewis Department of Humanities)

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Effective communication is critical in times of rapid technological change, wherever increasing amounts of information must compete for the attention of people with

limited time to absorb it. Professionals who can package technical, scientific and other information using the newest technological tools are in demand in business, industry, nonprofit organizations, and government.

To meet these needs, the Lewis Department of Humanities offers graduate programs in technical communication and information design, information architecture, instructional design, technical and professional communication, and international technical communication. Students gain the knowledge and skills needed to create, organize and present technical information in a variety of media, learning from faculty who are experienced practitioners in the field of technical communication. Programs are oriented toward working professionals and can be taken on a 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
 International Technical Communication
 Technical Communication

Ethics in the Workplace: Business, Engineering and Government (via the Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions)

Research Facilities

The department has a state-of-the-art computer lab equipped with 31 Pentium PCs connected to a local area network (LAN), which provides remote access to an external network, printers, a scanner, a theater-style projector, and multimedia software and hardware. The lab is

arranged in clusters to promote collaborative work. The department also supports a Usability Testing and Evaluation Center and an editing center, Edit IIT.

Research Areas

Faculty conduct research in the areas of the rhetoric of science and technology; technical communication; usability testing, including testing and evaluating a communication product using prototyping, sampling surveys, and experimental design; instructional design, including analysis of human performance problems, strategic interventions, learning tasks, and validation instruments; documentation and online design, including desktop pub-

lishing, Web site development and management, online applications, hypertext, multimedia, and hypermedia; linguistics; cultural studies; history (including history of science and technology); philosophy (including workplace ethics); film; history of art and architecture.

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Faculty

Matthew J. Bauer, Assistant Professor of Linguistics. B.A., University of Minnesota, Duluth; M.S., Ph.D., Georgetown University.

Glenn J. Broadhead, Associate Professor of English, Director of Technical Communication Programs, and Director of Communication Across the Curriculum. B.A., Los Angeles State College; M.A., Ph.D., University of California, Davis.

James Dabbert, Senior Lecturer, English. B.A., M.A., Indiana University.

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

Susan Feinberg, Professor of English and Director of the Usability Testing and Evaluation Center. B.A., University of Michigan; M.A., University of Louisville Kentucky; Ph.D., Kent State University.

Kevin P. Harrington, Professor of Architectural History. B.A., Colgate University; M.A., Ph.D., Cornell University.

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

Jo Mackiewicz, Assistant Professor of Technical Communication. B.S., University of Wisconsin, Superior; M.A., University of Minnesota, Duluth; Ph.D., Georgetown University.

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

Gregory J. Pulliam, Senior Lecturer of English. B.A., Memphis State University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Missouri.

Kathryn Riley, Professor of English, Chair of the Department of Humanities, 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. A.B., Princeton University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh.

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

Michael Tillmans, Assistant Professor of Technical Communication. B.A., University of Northern Iowa; M.A., Arizona State University; Ph.D., Florida State University.

Admission Guidelines (Ph.D. Program)

The doctoral program in technical communication at IIT prepares students for careers in teaching at the university and community college levels, 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.

Our students enter the Ph.D. program from a wide range of undergraduate majors and masters degree fields in the humanities, sciences, and technology—that is, not just technical writing, English, journalism, communication, history, and philosophy, but also computer science, psychology, design, biology, engineering, and many other areas. The program's goal is to help students build on existing strengths and develop new areas of expertise while mastering the techniques and literature of research in technical communication.

Applicants must have completed a bachelor's or master's degree in technical communication or any field that, in combination with the 30-credit-hour technical core, would provide a solid basis for the advanced study of communication in business, industrial, corporate, government, and other institutional settings. A partial list of examples would include human factors psychology, history of technology, computer science, sociology, anthropology, and library science among many others. The relevance of previous degrees to the doctoral program will be assessed by the program director.

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

1. Official transcripts, or certified copies thereof, of all academic work at the college level or above
2. Three letters of recommendation
3. Professional statement
4. Required test scores

All applicants are required to submit the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores with a combined minimum score of 1200 (for tests taken prior to Oct. 1, 2002), or 900 (quantitative + verbal) and 2.5 (analytical writing) (for tests taken on or after Oct. 1, 2002).

International students must submit TOEFL scores unless they are exempt. Students who score below 600/250* on the TOEFL must take the English Proficiency Review (EPR) to assess the level of their skill in written and spoken English. Students who show deficiency on the EPR exam may be refused admission to this graduate program. U.S. citizens are exempt from the requirement, and students from a number of countries are exempt from the TOEFL requirement. (For details, see the current Graduate Bulletin.)

Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis, and applications are accepted any time during the year. However, it may be to your advantage to apply as early as possible.

* Paper-based test score/computer-based test score.

Admission Guidelines (Masters Degrees)

Applicants to the department's technical communication programs come from a broad 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 background in a technical or scientific field and work to enhance their communication skills. Successful students in the technical communication and information design and information architecture programs have had undergraduate or previous graduate degrees in fields such as business administration, engineering, computer science, graphic arts, design, English literature, communication, journalism, technical writing, rhetoric/composition, and others. The program's goal is to help students build upon existing strengths and develop new areas of expertise so that no specific field of prior study is required. (However, the certificate program in instructional design requires prior or concurrent experience in technical communication.)

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

Applicants must submit Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores with a combined minimum score of 1200 (for tests taken prior to Oct. 1, 2002), or 900 (quantitative + verbal) and 2.5 (analytical writing) (for tests taken on or after Oct. 1, 2002). [Note: this GRE requirement is only for applicants to the information architecture program and is waived for those applicants with bachelor's degrees from accredited U.S. educational institutions with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0/4.0.]

International students must submit TOEFL scores, unless they fall under the rules of exemption as stated in the "Admission" section of this bulletin (see "International Applicant Requirements"). Students who score below 600/250* on the TOEFL must take the English Proficiency Review (EPR) to assess the level of

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their skill in written and spoken English. Students who show deficiency on the EPR exam may be refused admission to this graduate program. (U.S. citizens are exempt from the English as a foreign language proficiency requirement.) If applicants do not meet these guidelines, they may seek probationary admission or may simply enroll in classes as a non-degree student (if permitted), in order to demonstrate an ability to work successfully at the graduate level.

Note: Enrolling in courses does not guarantee later acceptance into the technical communication and information design or information architecture programs, nor does

meeting the minimum GPA and test score requirements. Students who enter as non-degree students should first discuss their plans with the director of technical communication. Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis, and applications are accepted any time during the year. However, for maximum consideration, applications should be completed by April 1 for the fall semester or November 1 for the spring semester.

* Paper-based test score/computer-based test score.

Doctor of Philosophy in Technical Communication

84 credit hours beyond the bachelors degree, including
Technical communication core (30 credit hours)
Electives (minimum of 12 credit hours)
Dissertation research (minimum of 24 credit hours)
Additional electives or dissertation research (as needed to achieve total of 84)

Qualifying examination (oral)
Comprehensive examination (oral)
Dissertation
Dissertation examination (oral)

Transfer Units

Students who have already earned masters 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 (30 credit hours)
COM 525 Research and Usability Testing
COM 528 Document Design
COM 529 Technical Editing
COM 530 Online Design
COM 535 Instructional Design
COM 537 Documentation and Project Management
COM 538 Entrepreneurship in Technical Communication
COM 541 Indexing and Information Retrieval
COM 542 Knowledge Management for
Technical Communicators
COM 561 Teaching Technical Communication

Electives (at least 12 credit hours)

COM 532 Rhetoric of Technology
COM 536 Proposal and Grant Writing
COM 545 Writing for Publication
COM 551 Language Issues in International
Communication

COM 552 Multiculturalism in International
Communication
COM 553 Globalization and Localization in
International Communication
SEP 501 Foundation of Ethics in the Professions
SEP 503 Ethics and Cultural Differences in the
Workforce
SEP 505 Environmental Issues
SEP 507 Ethics and Technological and Social Change
Other courses in history, philosophy, psychology, sociology,
political science, business, etc., as approved by the director of
technical communication programs

Methodology and Dissertation Research

COM 601 Research Methods and Resources in Technical
Communication (3 credit hours)
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 bachelors 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 masters-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; (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 program other than technical communication. In some cases, students may wish to add a fifth member from the Humanities Department (e.g., history, philosophy, composition, art & architecture history, litera-

ture). 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 teachers, including three from technical communication and one from another program. (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—including areas of interaction between technical communication and other disciplines (especially the Humanities disciplines of art & architecture history, 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), pedagogical, historical, or theoretical.

Master of Science in Technical Communication and Information Design

30-34 credit hours
Project or Thesis
Internship (may be waived for students with workplace experience)

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. Candidates admitted to the master's program must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. The program is interdisciplinary, and qualified students may enroll from a wide range of undergraduate major fields.

Students preparing for careers as technical communicators are advised to take the project option, which requires 33–34 credit hours, while students preparing for a Ph.D. in a relevant field may wish to take the thesis option, which requires 30–31 credit hours. For both options, a required one-credit-hour internship may be waived for students with workplace experience. 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 Research and Usability Testing
COM 530 Online Design
COM 537 Documentation and Project Management
COM 538 Entrepreneurship in Technical Communication
COM 528 Document Design (OR COM 424 Document Design)

COM 529 Technical Editing (OR COM 425 Editing)
COM 585 Internship (may be waived for students with workplace experience)

Electives

COM 428 Verbal and Visual Communication
COM 532 Rhetoric of Technology
COM 536 Proposal and Grant Writing
COM 541 Indexing and Information Retrieval
COM 542 Knowledge Management for Technical Communicators
COM 551 Language Issues in International Communication
COM 553 Globalization and Localization in International Communication
COM 552 Multiculturalism in International Communication
COM 435 Intercultural Communication
MBA 520 Organizational Behavior
CS 565 Computer-Assisted Instruction Using Multimedia
CS 460 Multimedia

Other courses as approved by the director of technical communication programs

Students may incorporate coursework for the technical and professional communication, instructional design and/or international technical communication certificates into their work toward the technical communication and information design degree (so long as those courses were not applied to another degree).

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Master of Science in Information Architecture

33-37 credit hours

Project or Thesis

Internship (may be waived for students with workplace experience)

The Master of Science in Information Architecture enhances a technical communication core with specialized concepts, skills and tools for designing, implementing and managing Web sites and related media such as CD-ROMs. This degree provides students with expertise for a number of tasks relevant to mid-level and advanced positions in the workplace: Web site design, Web site project management, information retrieval, knowledge management, usability testing and evaluation. Because of the global reach of the Internet, students may wish to incorporate a certificate in international technical communication as part of their coursework toward the information architecture degree.

Students preparing for careers as technical communicators are advised to take the project option, which requires 36–37 credit hours, while students preparing for a Ph.D. in a relevant field may wish to take the thesis option, which requires 33–34 credit hours. For both options, a required one-credit-hour internship may be waived for students with workplace experience. 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	Research and Usability Testing
COM 530	Online Design
COM 537	Documentation and Project Management
COM 538	Entrepreneurship in Technical Communication
COM 541	Indexing and Information Retrieval
COM 542	Knowledge Management in Technical Communication
COM 585	Internship (may be waived for students with workplace experience)
COM 528	Document Design OR
COM 424	Document Design

Electives

Students may specialize in relevant clusters of courses, such as web design (COM 430, Basic Web Design; COM 431, Intermediate Web Design; COM 432, Advanced Web Design), databases, e-commerce, visual design; or they may seek a broad-based understanding by selecting courses from different clusters.

Courses from relevant disciplines may also be applied with permission of the director of technical communication programs.

Certificate Programs

All coursework taken toward any of the three certificates and passed with a grade of “B” or better may also be applied to the M.S. in Technical Communication and Information Design or the M.S. in Information

Architecture (for students who are admitted to one of those programs).

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). 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 graduate certificate students. The program consists of 12 credit hours of coursework (four courses) and a one credit-hour internship (which may be waived for candidates with professional experience). Courses taken in this program may be applied toward the master’s degree for students admitted to the degree program.

Required courses

COM 525	Usability Testing
COM 529	Document Design OR
COM 424	Document Design
COM 529	Technical Editing OR
COM 425	Editing
COM 530	Online Design OR
COM 428	Verbal and Visual Communication OR
COM 435	Intercultural Communication

Elective approved by the director of technical communication COM 585 Internship (may be waived for candidates with extensive workplace experience).

Certificate in Instructional Design

This certificate is primarily for experienced technical communicators who wish to acquire focused competency in instructional design. 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. 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.

IIT offers a certificate program in instructional design that teaches the core concepts, instructional methods and assessment instruments for designing materials using various forms of text and visual media, computers and instructional techniques. Four required courses and one elective totaling 15 credit hours make up the certificate program in instructional design:

Required courses

COM 525	Usability Testing
COM 530	Online Design
COM 535	Instructional Design
COM 424	Document Design OR
COM 529	Document Design

One of the following (or another course approved by the director of technical communication):

COM 430	Introduction to Web Design and Management
COM 431	Intermediate Web Design and Management
COM 432	Advanced Web Design and Management
CS 565	Multimedia
COM 585	Internship (may be waived for candidates with extensive workplace experience)

Certificate in International Technical Communication

This certificate helps experienced writers, editors, project managers, information architects, and web designers to acquire competency in special topics of internationalism, multiculturalism, globalization, localization and language differences.

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.

The program requires 12 credit hours of coursework (four courses) plus a one credit-hour internship (which may be waived for candidates with extensive professional experience). Courses taken in this program may be applied toward a Master of Science degree in either information architecture or technical communication and information design (for students admitted to one of these degree programs).

Required courses

COM 551	Language Issues in International Communication
COM 553	Globalization and Localization in International Communication
COM 552	Multiculturalism in International Communication OR
COM 435	Intercultural Communication

Elective approved by the director of technical communication

COM 585	Internship (may be waived for candidates with extensive workplace experience)
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Recommended

Fluency in two languages, or fluency in one language with reading/writing ability in two non-native languages

Ethics in the Workplace: Business, Engineering and Government

This program provides an understanding of ethical issues in the workplace, along with analytical skills for dealing responsibly with such issues. Students may select a nine credit-hour or a 12 credit-hour option. 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.

Required course

SEP 501	The Foundation of Ethics in the Professions, Business and Government
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Electives

SEP 503	Doing Business and Engineering Around the Globe: Ethics and Cultural Differences in the Workforce and in the Foreign Locale
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SEP 505	Environmental Issues: Practical and Responsible Approaches
SEP 507	Facing the Future: Ethics and Technological and Social Change

Additional accelerated-course electives (students should consult page 41 for the definition of "accelerated course.") A selection of one-credit and one-half-credit accelerated courses will be offered each semester and will address issues of practical and professional ethics, energy, e-commerce and other selected topics. Accelerated courses are numbered at the 700 level. A maximum of six credit hours of accelerated courses may be counted toward certificate completion.

Course Descriptions

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

Technical Communication and Information Design

COM 501

Introduction to Linguistics

Objective analysis of language structure and structural hierarchies; a survey of the basic concepts of linguistics; the phoneme, the morpheme, language change over time and space.

COM 506

World Englishes

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

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.

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.

COM 515

Discourse Analysis

Analysis of basic terminology and concepts used to analyze texts on the intersentential and metalinguistic levels (e.g., the particulars of semantic roles; given-new info and syntactic strategies for manipulating it; deixis and anaphora; presupposition and entailment; direct and indirect speech acts; schema theory). Attention to both spoken and written

discourse. Applications to social and professional issues: intercultural communication; sociopolitical discourse; discourse in legal and medical settings; discourse in educational settings; narratives and literary texts.

COM 521

Key Concepts in Technical Communication

Broad and intensive readings of key concepts in technical communication, such as usability, audience analysis, task analysis, and information design.

COM 525

Research and Usability Testing

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

An investigation of the theory and practice of document and information design as applied to paper media. This course focuses on planning the design and development of documents and evaluating the document for a variety of applications, including manuals, instructional design, brochures, newsletters, graphics and tables. (3-0-3)

COM 529

Technical Editing

A study of the art of insuring the clarity of technical works. The course highlights professional standards for the presentation of prose exposition, tables and graphic materials, as well as the means for insuring satisfaction of those standards. (3-0-3)

COM 530

Online Design

An exploration of the theory and practice of structuring information in on-line environments. This course will enable students to analyze styles of graphical user interfaces for a

variety of applications and to customize their own design projects. (3-0-3)

COM 532

Rhetoric of Technology

An exploration of the rhetorical convention of various literary, theoretical and historical discourses about what has come to be viewed as "contemporary technology." The course studies works from diverse disciplines and literary genres, including science fiction, cyberpunk literature, cultural studies, anthropology, political science, writing theory and education theory. (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

Principles and practices for writing proposals and grants, with study tracks for (a) students in scientific and technical areas (emphasis on practices within their own discipline) and (b) specialists in technical communication (emphasis on general concepts from current research in argumentation and persuasion). Attention to both individual and team skills. (3-0-3)

COM 537

Publication

Preparing, writing, editing and testing documentation for products and processes (especially software documentation). Managing documentation projects for quality in all phases: information planning, content specification, implementation, production and evaluation. (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**Indexing and Information Retrieval**

Principles, practices and tools for indexing either print or electronic documents, along with methods and tools for storing, maintaining and accessing information for communication roles in corporate, institutional and government settings. Emphasis on web-based strategies, techniques and tools. (3-0-3)

COM 542**Knowledge Management in Communication**

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 545**Writing for Publication**

Participants study tasks commonly associated with academic publication: (1) analyzing, evaluating, and gaining practice in preparing various written academic genres (both publishable genres and job-search items such as a CV and professional website); (2) analyzing and evaluating journals in the participant's academic field; (3) understanding strategies for and logistics of submitting items to journals and conferences; (4) managing time during the research, writing, and publication process; (5) revising work and providing feedback to others; (6) understanding and practicing the rhetorical, organizational, and stylistic conventions of academic writing; (7) preparing a presentation for a conference or academic job interview.

COM 551**Language Issues in International Communication**

Translation concepts, strategies and resources. Exploration of relevant

linguistic theory and approaches to style, syntax, culture and borrowings across languages. Familiarization with minimalism and controlled-language strategies, as well as computer tools such as online dictionaries, parsing programs, translation databases, internet resources, and international versions of software for page layout, web design and word processing. (3-0-3)

COM 552**Multiculturalism in International Communication**

Principles and procedures in analyzing and adapting to disparate societies and corporate cultures. Exploration of differences between innate characteristics (human factors psychology) and learned characteristics (ethnography). Special attention to gender-based distinctions in international contexts. (3-0-3)

COM 553**Multiculturalism in International Communication**

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**

Analysis of common teaching responsibilities and curriculum design for technical communicators at the college level, focusing on including technical writing (service courses for engineers & scientists) and technical communication (specialized courses for career technical communicators), but also devoting attention to remedial writing, first-year composition, tutoring or supervision of a writing center. Such topics have variations based on language (native vs. nonnative speakers of English) or class level (undergraduate vs. graduate), and in some cases involve attention to special needs such as physical infirmity.

COM 573**Writing about Technology, Science, and Business**

This course focuses on techniques for "translating" technical, scientific, and business/economic information from the dense, jargon-heavy discourses of the disciplines into prose that is readable and clear to laypersons.

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. Credit Hours: 3 Prerequisite: Graduate standing

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. Prior internships or professional experience may fulfill this requirement. Credit: Variable. (Most M.S. students take one credit of internship.) (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)

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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 and Methodologies

This course explores the theory and practice of designing research projects for studying and solving problems in the discipline. The goal of the course is to enable students to study and evaluate research methodologies for a variety of functional contexts and to develop a knowledge base for their own research applications. The course focuses on the methods of empirical research in technical communication and information design. Credit Hours: 3

COM 691

Research and Thesis 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.

Ethics in the Professions

SEP 501

The Foundation of Ethics in the Professions, Business and Government

Sources and substance of business and government standards and professional codes, focusing on issues that concern all these institutions—for example, confidentiality, loyalty, conflict of interest, and obligations to the public.

SEP 503

Doing Business and Engineering Around the Globe: Ethics and Cultural Differences in the Workforce and in the

Foreign Locale

Issues raised by real and apparent differences in standards in different countries, with attention to bribery, compensation standards, and workplace safety, as well as cultural differences in the composition of the workforce in the home country and abroad and issues of respect for persons and fair treatment that arise.

SEP 505

Environmental Issues: Practical and Responsible Approaches

Responsibilities of members of business and government organizations and of the professions with respect to activities that have impact on the environment, such as strategies for engineers who design or oversee plant processes that affect the environment. Areas to be covered include water quality, energy, transportation, packaging and waste disposal.

SEP 507

Facing the Future: Ethics and Technological and Social Change

Issues such as privacy, ownership and responsibility generated by information technologies in the online world that is taking shape, with a focus on impacts of computers in business, government and the professions, as well as issues associated with gene patenting, gene therapy, food technology (including issues about testing and labeling), and sophisticated biomedical engineering.

Undergraduate level courses applicable to degrees and certificates

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. (3-0-3) (C)

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. (3-0-3) (C)

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. (3-0-3) (C)

COM 424

Document Design

Theory and practice of designing scientific, technical, and business documents whose primary aim is usability. Focus on overall organization, page design, visuals and typography. Emphasis on print genres such as brochures, reports, and user manuals, but with attention to parallels in screen-based media (Web, CD-ROM). (3-0-3)

COM 425

Editing

Principles and strategies for revising technical and scientific works for usability, clarity, consistency and reliability. Examination of professional standards and practices for text, tables, graphics and documents, but with emphasis on cohesion (signals of the line of thought), style and usage. (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. (3-0-3) (H) (C)

COM 437
Video Documentation

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. (C) Credit Hours: 3

COM 438
Technical Exhibit Design

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) Credit Hours: 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. (H,C) Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: A 100-level humanities course.

Other Undergraduate Courses Available to Graduate Students

AAH 491
Independent Reading and Research in Art and Architectural History

CS 460
Fundamentals of Multimedia

EG 425
Computer Graphics for Non-Engineers

HIST 491
Independent Reading and Research in History

PHIL 491
Independent Reading and Research in Philosophy