

## A DEGREE IN TECHNICAL WRITING

The following description of the bachelor's degree in technical writing offered at Oklahoma State University reveals the breadth of the discipline. Graduates are qualified either to teach or to work as professionals in industry.

### A technical writing career

The technical writer is a specialist who interprets scientific and technical information so that it can be understood by those with a need for it, such as managers (to make a decision), or technicians (for operating equipment), or consumers (for assembling or operating products). The technical writer may work in business, industry, or government writing brochures, research and progress reports, manuals, film or videotape scripts, or any combination. Technical writers work closely with engineers, scientists, doctors, and other technical personnel when working on a project.

### Major in Technical Writing

Students may elect the Technical Writing option available with the English major. A summary of the requirements, in addition to the University requirements, follows:

#### Upper Level

##### English Courses Required

- ENGL 4013 English Grammar
- 15 hours in Technical Writing
- Electives (2 courses;  
1 in linguistics)

#### Non-English, Upper Division

##### (16 hours)

- Courses 3000 and above.
- Select from:
- Science
  - Technology
  - Engineering
  - Business
  - Some combination

### Electives (28 hours)

- Computer Programming (1 course)

#### Select from:

- Graphics
- Management
- Statistics
- Science
- Technology
- Engineering
- Business
- Some combination

### Minor in Technical Writing

Students may elect a minor in English emphasizing technical writing. Interested students should consult advisors in the department of the anticipated major for complete details and requirements as well as the English Department Advisor.

### Courses

ENGL 2333 Introduction to Technical Writing and Professional Report Writing

Prerequisites: None

Content: - Rhetorical techniques  
- Letters, memos  
- Style  
- Graphics

ENGL 3273 Criticism: Technical Writing

Prerequisites: None

Content: - Rhetorical analysis  
- Style  
- Critical interpretation

ENGL 3323 Intermediate Technical Writing and Professional Report Writing  
Prerequisites: 60 hours, or 45 hours and 3.25 GPA or A or B in ENGL 1113, permission of college, 60 hours

Content: - Report organization  
- Graphics  
- Style  
- Letters  
- Oral Presentation

ENGL 4523 Internship in Technical Writing and Professional Report Writing  
Prerequisites: ENGL 3323  
Content: - On-the-job training  
- Brochure design/layout  
- Style guide development

ENGL 4533 Advanced Technical Writing and Professional Report Writing  
Prerequisites: ENGL 3323  
Content: - Manuals  
- Editing  
- Style  
- Industrial use of Film/videotape

ENGL 4543 Scientific and Technical Editing  
Prerequisites: ENGL 3323  
Content: - Copy editing  
- Production editing  
- Computer-assisted editing  
- Style manuals

ENGL 4550 Research Problems in Technical Writing  
Prerequisites: ENGL 3323  
Content: - Research methods  
- Empirical research  
- Theoretical research

ENGL 4563 Scientific and Technical Literature  
Prerequisites: None  
Content: - Historical survey  
- Style development  
- Survey of recent materials

ENGL 5223 Special Problems in Teaching/Learning English: Teaching Business and Technical Writing  
Prerequisites: Graduate standing  
Content: - Syllabus development  
- Rhetoric  
- Sources  
- Methods

ENGL 5290 Interdisciplinary Uses of English: Writing for Publication  
Prerequisites: Graduate standing  
Content: - Style/author guides  
- Writing articles for publication  
- Journal analysis  
- Graphics

#### General information

The Department of English has 24 ranked faculty and 68 graduate teaching staff members. It has 111 graduate students and 150 undergraduate majors. Interests of Departmental members range from traditional study of literature to film, creative writing, composition and rhetoric, linguistics, and technical writing. Collectively, the faculty has published some 50 books, 400 periodical publications and has made some 500 professional presentations.

The Department is one of 18 in the College of Arts and Sciences, the largest of the eight colleges of the University, with approximately 6,200 of the 22,000 on-campus University enrollment. Oklahoma State University is a land-grant institution situated in Stillwater, Oklahoma, a city of some 42,000 inhabitants.

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Department of English Faculty involved in the Technical Writing  
Program include

Thomas L. Warren, Ph.D., Director of Technical Writing  
Mary E. Arrington, M.S., Introductory Technical Writing  
Leonard Leff, Ph.D., Scriptwriting  
William H. Pixton, Ph.D., Rhetorical Theory  
Mary Lou Sare, M.S., Intermediate Technical Writing  
O. Bruce Southard, Ph.D., Linguistics  
Sherry Southard, Ph.D., Technical Writing



