Technical Communication

Technical Communication Major Requirements

Technical Communication majors must take 34-36 credits within the major and 6 hours in a designated area of concentration related to technology, science, or design (an acceptable minor will also fulfill this requirement). Majors develop advanced skills in multiple aspects of technical communication and apply their knowledge of technical communication to a specific discipline.

ENGL 310 Rhetorical Analysis 3
ENGL 314 Technical Communication 3
ENGL 350 Rhetorical Traditions 3
ENGL 487 Internship in Business, Technical, and Professional Communication 1-3

Choose 3: 9
(Note: Students planning to take ENGL 415 Business and Technical Editing in the future should take ENGL 220 Descriptive English Grammar for 3 of these credits.)
ENGL 220 Descriptive English Grammar
ENGL 302 Business Communication
ENGL 309 Report and Proposal Writing
ENGL 312 Biological Communication
ENGL 313 Rhetorical Website Design
ENGL 332 Visual Communication of Quantitative Information

Choose 5: 15
ENGL 411 Technology, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication
ENGL 415 Business and Technical Editing
ENGL 416 Visual Aspects of Business and Technical Communication
ENGL 418 Seminar in Argumentation
ENGL 477 Seminar in Technical Communication
ENGL 529 Multimedia Content Management
ENGL 542 Production Processes for Technical Documents
ENGL 549 Multimedia Design in Professional Communication

Total Credits 40-42

Designated Area of Concentration Courses

The Designated Area of Concentration (DAC) is a student-designed grouping of related courses in a technical, scientific, or design field that will meet the student’s professional or academic interests. Courses for the 6-credit DAC must be taken outside the English Department and approved by the Technical Communication Program Adviser. A second major or a minor in areas such as computer science, social science, natural science, entrepreneurial studies, design studies, engineering studies, or another technical, scientific, or design field may substitute for the DAC.

See also the 4-year plan of study grid for Technical Communication showing courses by semester. (https://nextcatalog.registrar.iastate.edu/planofstudy/liberalartsandsciences/technicalcommunicationbs)

Technical Communication Minor Requirements

The department offers a minor in Technical Communication, which students may earn by completing the following:
ENGL 314 Technical Communication 3

Choose 4: 12
ENGL 302 Business Communication
ENGL 309 Report and Proposal Writing
ENGL 310 Rhetorical Analysis
ENGL 312 Biological Communication
ENGL 313 Rhetorical Website Design

Total Credits 15
Nine of the 15 credits must be 300 level or above and students must earn a grade of C (not C-) or higher in each course taken in the minor. Up to 6 of the 15 credits taken for the minor may be used to meet other degree program requirements. Students may design their minor programs around their own interests but are encouraged to work with the Technical Communication Program Adviser.

Note: Students should check the ISU catalog to be sure that they meet prerequisites if they intend to register for 400+ courses.