

## What is Scientific and Technical Communication?

The Department of Writing Studies offers a B.S. in Scientific and Technical Communication (S&TC). This degree offers a unique combination of written, oral, and visual communication theory and practice as they apply to interdisciplinary areas of science and technology.

## What are the major requirements?

Go to [www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html](http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html) and select "Undergraduate majors." Or, see the Department of Writing Studies, undergraduate program site <http://www.writingstudies.umn.edu/ugrad/>

## Typical courses

### WRIT 3562W: Technical and Professional Writing

Focuses on writing a variety of documents for technical audiences; e.g., letters, resumes, instructions, memos, proposals, and reports. Stresses the importance of process, audience analysis, technical communication, oral communication, visual design, and usability.

### WRIT 3671: Visual Rhetoric

Covers principles that inform effective visual displays for technical documents in various media based on your audience, purpose, and context. Course topics include theories and strategies for print and online documents.

### WRIT 3701W: Rhetorical Theory for Scientific and Technical Communication (WI)

Principles/history of rhetorical theory/criticism. Emphasizes classical theories, especially "Aristotle's Rhetoric." Apply Aristotelian concepts to examples of contemporary communication.

### WRIT 4196: Internship in S&TC

Internship experiences may include the University, industry, or government agencies. Requires, progress reports and a final report with an evaluation from the internship supervisor.

### Writ 4662: Emerging Technologies

Creating multimedia, hypertext, online help, and internet documents. Linear/nonlinear design, linking, reading/editing online. Principles of technical communication taught through projects: scripts, online support, mark-up language.

## How do I declare a Scientific & Technical Communication major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. To declare an S&TC major, make an appointment to meet with the assistant director of undergraduate studies, Barb Horvath in 150F Westbrook Hall, [horva003@umn.edu](mailto:horva003@umn.edu) or 612-624-1902. Together you will complete an online declaration form, which will show the requirements you need to fulfill to complete your major.
2. When you declare S&TC as your major, you will be assigned a faculty advisor as well as your CLA advisor. It is a good idea to meet with your advisor at least once per term to discuss the courses you plan to take and to discuss your personal and professional development as a technical communicator.

## For more information:

### About the S&TC major:

Department of Writing Studies  
University of Minnesota  
180 Westbrook Hall  
77 Pleasant St SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Telephone: 612-624-3445  
Fax: 612-624-7275  
E-mail: [writ@umn.edu](mailto:writ@umn.edu)

### About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Communications and  
Media Student Community  
B-16 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-1820  
<http://cam.class.umn.edu/index.html>

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Program  
19 Johnston Hall  
(612) 625-2300  
<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/mlk@class.cla.umn.edu>

### About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community  
Learning Center  
135 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-7577  
[www.cclc.umn.edu/cclc@class.cla.umn.edu](http://www.cclc.umn.edu/cclc@class.cla.umn.edu)

### About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division  
CLA Honors Division  
20 Nicholson  
(612) 624-5522  
[www.honors.class.umn.edu/honors@class.cla.umn.edu](http://www.honors.class.umn.edu/honors@class.cla.umn.edu)

## What can I do with a major in Scientific and Technical Communication?

### Skills

#### *Written, Oral, and Visual Communication*

- Writing, editing, and presentation skills
- Working with technologies and visual displays
- Working in teams

#### *Communication Expertise*

- Multimedia communication and project management skills
- International communication skills

#### *Theory and Research*

- Research skills: information gathering
- Usability testing skills

#### *Technology, Science, and Society*

- Internet studies skills
- Analytical skills on the social impact of science and technology

### Employment

*Here is a small sample of the opportunities possible for Science and Technical Communication graduates now and in the future:*

Technical Writer and Editor (Medtronic)  
Advertising Coordinator (Alta Genetics)  
Training Coordinator (cMore Medical Solutions)  
Consultant/Software Developer (Bluestem Systems)  
Information Developer (IBM)  
Marketing Representative (John Deere)  
Information Architect (US Bank)  
Information Architect (Yamamoto Moss)

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **CLA Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

### Contact us:

#### **General: Writing Studies Department**

Phone: 612-624-3445 writ@umn.edu

#### **Barb Horvath, Assistant Director, Undergraduate Major**

Phone: 612-624-1902 horva003@umn.edu

#### **Mary Wrobel, Program Coordinator**

Phone: 612-624-4761 wrobe005@umn.edu

<http://cam.class.umn.edu/index.html>