

abroad programs to Spain, Mexico, France, Ireland, Germany and England. Depending on students' choice of course offerings, time spent abroad may span from one week to an entire semester.

Research: Academic research is an integral part of the English major's coursework, and student research assistants regularly work with faculty members to collaborate on projects.

Applied Learning and Community Projects:

Students in Technical Communication have the opportunity to work on "real world" projects with actual clients in the local community, either in the business or the nonprofit sectors. Many of these projects are exciting, resumé building opportunities to build web sites, create instructional media, and even give in-service workshops (through MWSTC) for visiting groups.



Alumni View

"The broad scope of coursework at Western not only prepared me for my chosen field as a technical communicator, but also

gave me the knowledge and flexibility to be able to adapt to the demands of my current occupation. Overall, the education I received has made me highly employable in a variety of fields and has allowed me to be successful in the workplace."

*Michelle Ritter, '00
Web Developer
Missouri Western State University*

For more information

**Department of English,
Foreign Languages and Journalism
816.271.4577
www.missouriwestern.edu/eflj**

Technical Communication Program

Missouri Western State University



**Missouri Western State University
4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507**





Technical Communication Program

The English, Foreign Languages and Journalism Department offers both major and minor programs in Technical Communication.

Skills: Students in the technical communication program

develop foundational and advanced skills in writing and design for a wide range of media and genres. Courses include studies in desktop publishing, multimedia authoring and production, electronic and online communication, technical editing, and technical documentation.

Critical Concepts: In addition to developing practical skills in writing and document design, Technical Communication students study concepts and theories of language, design, and media. Courses include studies in language theory, intercultural and international documentation, literature/literary theory, and theories of mass media.

Courses in Technical Communication

Students who choose a major in technical communication will enroll in the English undergraduate core of courses that provide exposure to important concepts in language and writing. Core courses include Journalism (JOU 200), Literature (ENG 220), Linguistics (ENG 232), Technical Writing (ETC 200), and Advanced Composition or Creative Writing (ENG 301, 385, or 386). As students advance through the program, they will take courses in Technical Editing & Documentation (ETC 420), Electronic and Online Communication (ETC 324), Desktop Publishing (EPR 326), Multimedia (ETC 328), and Literature Studies (numbered above the 300 level). Technical Communication majors are also complete at least 2 credit hours of Internship and a Senior Portfolio before graduation.

Careers in Technical Communication

Technical communicators work for all kinds of corporations, institutions, organizations, and small businesses. Career professionals work as writers, editors, and designers for print and electronic media. Many technical writers and designers choose to free lance. Some advance to management positions, leading teams of writers and designers. Students in the technical communication major and minor programs study to prepare for positions that include:

- Trade journal writing/editing
- Science writing
- Web content development
- Electronic document design
- In-house publishing
- Product documentation/manual design
- Public relations media
- Training and presentational media



Society for Technical Communication

The Missouri Western student chapter of the Society for Technical Communication (MWSTC) offers opportunities for students to network with professionals in the field and keep up-to-date on the latest research, practices, and trends in the world of Technical Communication. <http://www.stc.org>

Internships, Study Abroad, Research, and Applied Learning

Internships: All technical communication students complete at least one internship during their junior or senior year. Western interns can be found working for local businesses, on-campus programs, newspaper offices, television stations or local organizations.

Study Away: Almost 40% of students in the Department of English, Foreign Languages and Journalism participate in a study-abroad program. The department has offered study-