PROFESSIONAL WRITING AND EDITING GRADUATE CERTIFICATE (COMM)

Banner Code: LA-CERG-PWE

Academic Advising
102 Northeast Module
Fairfax Campus
Email: commgrad@gmu.edu

Admissions & Policies

Admissions
Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions.

Policies
For policies governing all graduate certificates, see AP.6.8 Requirements for Graduate Certificates.

Concentration in Professional and Technical Writing
This concentration in the graduate certificate in professional writing and editing may be pursued concurrently with any of several programs in English and elsewhere. Part of the coursework toward the concentration may be applied to those degrees with the approval of the director of the degree program. Students pursuing the certificate in professional and writing and editing with a concentration in professional and technical writing must complete 18 credits of English graduate courses with a minimum grade of 3.00 in each course.

Concentration in Science Communication
All course choices included in this concentration must be approved by the Department of Communication. Students pursuing the graduate certificate in professional writing and editing with a concentration in science communication must complete 15 credits.

Requirements

Certificate Requirements
Total credits: 15 or 18
This certificate may be pursued on a full-or part-time basis.
Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Students pursuing this graduate certificate must choose either a concentration in professional and technical writing or a concentration in science communication.

Concentration in Professional and Technical Writing (PTW)
This concentration in the graduate certificate in professional writing and editing may be pursued on a part-time basis only.

Concentration in Science Communication (SCMN)
This concentration in the graduate certificate in professional writing and editing may be pursued on a full- or part-time basis.

Core Courses

Electives
Two courses in STEM, Health Sciences, or Science Policy 1

Coursework

Course
Code
Title
Credits
ENGH 501
Introduction to Professional Writing and Rhetoric
3
ENGH 502
Research Methods in Rhetoric and Professional Writing
3
ENGH 503
Theory and Practice of Editing
3
ENGH 505
Document Design
3
Total Credits
12

1  ENG 501 Introduction to Professional Writing and Rhetoric should be taken in the first semester of study, if possible.

Emphasis in Technical Writing or Proposal Writing

Code
Title
Credits
Take courses from one of the following emphases:
6
Technical Writing Emphasis
ENG 613
Technical Communication

Proposal Writing Emphasis
ENG 509
Proposal Writing and Development
ENG 689
Advanced Proposal Writing

Total Credits
6

Concentration in Science Communication

Code
Title
Credits
COMM 639
Science Communication
3
Select two courses from the following:
6
COMM 637
Risk Communication
COMM 640
Controversies in Science Communication
COMM 641
Advanced Communication Skills for STEM
COMM 642
Science and the Public
COMM 644
Analysis and Criticism of Science Journalism
COMM 660
Climate Change and Sustainability Communication Campaigns
COMM 694
Communication Internship
COMM 735
Crisis Communication

Total Credits
9

Electives
Two courses in STEM, Health Sciences, or Science Policy 1

Credits
6
These courses should be chosen from any STEM, health sciences, or science policy discipline. Both courses must be from the same discipline and must be graduate level. Choices must be approved by the program director. Students should select from 500- or 600-level courses offered by CHSS, COS, CHHS, Schar, or CEHD.