

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.

Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
ENGH 501	Introduction to Professional Writing and Rhetoric ¹	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 ENGH 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		
ENGH 613	Technical Communication	
Select one elective ENGH course (3 credits) chosen in consultation with an advisor		
Proposal Writing Emphasis		
ENGH 509	Proposal Writing and Development	
ENGH 689	Advanced Proposal Writing	
Total Credits		6

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

Code	Title	Credits
COMM 639	Science Communication	3
COMM 641	Advanced Communication Skills for STEM	3
Select one course from the following:		3
COMM 637	Risk Communication	
COMM 640	Controversies in Science Communication	
COMM 642	Science and the Public	
COMM 644	Analysis and Criticism of Science Journalism	
COMM 660	Climate Change and Sustainability Communication Campaigns	
COMM 735	Crisis Communication	
Total Credits		9

Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Two courses in STEM, Health Sciences, or Science Policy ¹		6

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¹ 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 COS, CHHS, Schar, or CEHD.