

PROFESSIONAL WRITING AND EDITING GRADUATE CERTIFICATE (ENGL)

Banner Code: LA-CERG-PWE

Academic Advising

B413 Robinson Hall
Fairfax Campus

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
ENGL 501	Introduction to Professional Writing and Rhetoric ¹	3
ENGL 502	Research Methods in Rhetoric and Professional Writing	3
ENGL 503	Theory and Practice of Editing	3
ENGL 505	Document Design	3
Total Credits		12

¹ ENGL 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

ENGL 613 Technical Communication

Select one elective ENGL course (3 credits) chosen in consultation with an advisor

Proposal Writing Emphasis

ENGL 509 Proposal Writing and Development

ENGL 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

2 *Professional Writing and Editing Graduate Certificate (ENGL)*

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.