

New Undergraduate Program (Majors, Minors, Sequences) Proposal
Illinois State University - University Curriculum Committee

Program Department English

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Title of New Program B.S. degree in English, Technical Writing and Rhetorics sequ

Submission Date Saturday, February 29, 2020

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Version 1 **ID** 316

Proposed Starting Catalog Year 2022-2023

1. Proposed Action

- New Major
- New Minor
- New Sequence
- More than 50% of courses in this program are Distance Education

No Is this program an Integrated Bachelors/Masters degree program?

Degree Type(s)

Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science

2. Provide *Undergraduate Catalog* copy for new program.

Program in current curriculum catalog below:

Front page copy

Major in English. B.A./B.S.

The English Studies major is based on a broad model of interdisciplinary study in the fields that make up English Studies. The Department of English offers a full curriculum of courses in eight disciplines, including literature and cultural studies, children's literature, linguistics, rhetoric and composition, technical communication, creative writing, the Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), and Publishing. Students learn how to write well, read critically, develop investigative research skills, and frequently win some of the most prestigious awards at Illinois State, such as the Bone Scholarship. Faculty are eager to work with undergraduate students on research projects, and our low student-to-faculty ratio means you will receive guidance from professors who hold the highest doctoral degrees and are internationally recognized as experts in their fields. This flexibility in the degree allows both the student with interests in a variety of different fields in English Studies and the student who wants to specialize in a particular discipline to meet their goals.

For additional information on minimum requirements for admission and the application and selection process, visit the Majors website or contact the undergraduate advisor for the intended major.

Technical Writing and Rhetorics Sequence

Technical Writing and Rhetorics is a sequence in the English major. Professional technical writers take complex information and communicate it in a way that people understand. Focusing on this sequence prepares you for a career as a technical and professional writer in a variety of settings, such as corporate, nonprofit, and governmental organizations. You will develop the skills and knowledges needed to communicate specialized information effectively to a range of audiences. The sequence offers degrees in both the B.A. and the B.S.

Program Requirements

Major in English, Technical Writing and Rhetorics Sequence

Degree offered: B.S.

Major Requirements

Minimum required credit hours: ~~40~~ 58

- ENG 100
- ENG 102 (1)
- ENG 243
- ENG 249
- ENG 283
- ENG 300
- ENG 349
- ENG 353
- ENG 398 (3 credit hours)

Take 6 credit hours of the following

- ENG 239
- ENG 350
- ENG 351

Take 3 credit hours from the following

- ENG 391
- ENG 392

Take 6 credit hours from British Literatures and Cultures, American Literatures and Cultures, Global Literatures and Cultures, Children's Literature, or Women's Literature from the following courses

British Literatures and Cultures

- ENG 110
- ENG 213
- ENG 214
- ENG 216
- ENG 217
- ENG 218
- ENG 219
- ENG 222
- ENG 311
- ENG 320
- ENG 322
- ENG 324
- ENG 329
- ENG 378

American Literatures and Cultures

- ENG 130
- ENG 165
- ENG 231
- ENG 232
- ENG 233
- ENG 234
- ENG 236
- ENG 265
- ENG 266
- ENG 267
- ENG 332
- ENG 365

Global Literatures and Cultures

- ENG 150
- ENG 206A01
- ENG 206A02
- ENG 206A03
- ENG 206A04
- ENG 252
- ENG 255
- ENG 261
- ENG 266
- ENG 352

Children's Literature

- ENG 170
- ENG 271
- ENG 272
- ENG 370
- ENG 372
- ENG 373
- ENG 374
- ENG 375

Women's Literature

- ENG 160
- ENG 206A01
- ENG 206A02
- ENG 206A03
- ENG 206A04
- ENG 260
- ENG 261
- ENG 360

18 hours in a focused plan of study in mathematics, technology, natural sciences, or social sciences, which can be applied toward the completion of a minor.

Developed in consultation with faculty and academic advisors

Notes

Minimum of 40 hours in English required, exclusive of ENG 101

2.0 major GPA in English courses taken at Illinois State University

3. Provide a description for the proposed program.

This proposal is adding the Bachelor of Science degree option to the Major in English. This proposal's approval is contingent on IBHE approval and an RME will be submitted once/if Academic Senate approves this proposal. Please contact the Provost's Office with regard to IBHE, RMEs, and information related to those bodies/processes.

The proposal also adds the B.S. degree option to the Technical Writing and Rhetorics Sequence.

The course requirements for the sequence include 40 hours of coursework in English --Technical Writing and Rhetorics (the same as the current B.A. sequence) plus a minimum of 18 hours in a focused plan of study in mathematics, technology, natural sciences, or social sciences (developed in consultation with faculty and academic advisors), which can be applied toward the completion of a minor. Students earning the B.S. degree in the Department of English's Technical Writing and Rhetorics (TWR) sequence develop advanced skills in and knowledge of technical and professional writing and rhetorics in an English studies context and apply this understanding to specialized subject matter outside the liberal arts.

Students pursuing the B.S. option must also satisfy the Bachelor of Science Graduation Requirement in Science, Math, and Technology.

Due to COVID circumstances, the UCC and GCC Chair approval of the proposal also implies approval of the FIF form.

4. Provide a rationale of proposed program.

Illinois State's Strategic Plan, 2018-2023 identifies the "foster[ing] of innovation" as a key objective (7). Specifically, the University aims to "support academic program offerings to meet enrollment demand in current and emerging fields of study" by "facilitat[ing] the development and growth of interdisciplinary programs" (7). The B.S. option in the Technical Writing and Rhetorics (TWR) sequence aligns with this objective, as it affords students the opportunity to make innovative connections across the arts and sciences through a focused plan of study that brings English studies into conversation with an area of concentration related to technology, mathematics, the natural sciences, and/or the social sciences. It also helps prepare students for emerging careers that will require professional writers working within these areas to have expertise communicating specialized subject matter to diverse audiences; the ability to analyze and adapt to rapidly changing workplace environments and communication technologies; familiarity with a range of literacies, including alphabetic, multimodal, digital, and quantitative literacies; and an understanding of best practices associated with information architecture, cultural usability and accessibility, project development and management, web-based collaboration, and international and intercultural technical communication.

The inclusion of the B.S. option for the TWR sequence will also help with recruitment efforts, as it will make more visible the diverse range of intellectual and career possibilities available to students who major in English studies at ISU. In terms of the former, students earning the B.S. degree in TWR at Illinois State University will learn from and work with nationally recognized scholars and leaders in the fields of technical communication and digital rhetorics whose expertise in rhetorics of social justice, cultural usability theories, and community literacies will afford them the unique opportunity to study how technical writing understood as the practice of civic engagement generates effects within and beyond institutional and national boundaries. Students who graduate with the B.S. degree in the TWR sequence will thus help build bridges between the liberal arts, disciplines outside the humanities, and communities beyond the walls of academia. Perhaps more importantly, the education and training they receive will enable these students to bring diverse yet mutually informing knowledges and perspectives to bear on their work as professional writers in ways that enact the Department's and University's shared mission to promote civic engagement and global citizenship.

With respect to students' career possibilities, data regarding the marketability of technical writers will also support recruitment efforts. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), jobs for technical writers should expand by 11% from 2016-2026, and US News and World Report ranks technical writers first in Best Creative and Media Jobs, earning a mean salary of \$70,930. Because technical writers typically work with scientific, medical, and environmental industries/agencies to manage and communicate information (and conduct usability testing for them), it is important to note that our majors will surely be positively impacted by reports from CNBC, Forbes, and CNN Money, which identify these aforementioned industries/agencies as being among the top ten fastest growing job sectors in the U.S. until at least 2026.

An additional advantage for students pursuing the B.S. option is the choice either to complete coursework in an established minor related to technology, mathematics, the natural sciences, and/or the social sciences, or to develop an 18-hour customized plan of study that enables them to pursue intellectual and career interests in an area for which no minor currently exists. Thus, for example, students interested in medical technologies could develop a plan of study that includes coursework in biology and computer science. Students pursuing this option would develop their customized plan of study in close consultation with a TWR faculty member—all whom are award-winning teachers and experienced and committed mentors who are eager to advise undergraduate students as they imagine possibilities and prepare for emerging careers in a rapidly changing world.

Another benefit of the proposed program is that it recognizes and builds on the existing strengths of the English studies model, particularly its focus on exploring from multiple disciplinary perspectives the relationship between language, texts, cultures, and communication through and across difference. Such understanding is crucial to students' success within and beyond the university as they experience the cultures of new disciplines and develop strategies for building bridges between them. Furthermore, because the TWR sequence (for both the B.A. and the B.S. options) is closely aligned with the requirements for the English studies major, the time-to-graduation of students transferring into the sequence will not be delayed.

Although it is impossible to predict with certainty how many new majors the B.S. option might attract, we can state with confidence that increasing options will increase our chances of bringing into the major students who might otherwise fail to see themselves as people who can, in fact, "do English." Indeed, the existing TWR sequence is the only such undergraduate major sequence offered in the state of Illinois, and the inclusion of the B.S. option will further solidify our reputation as Illinois' first public university for undergraduates seeking rigorous study in Technical Writing and Rhetorics. While both the University of Illinois and University of Chicago offer a "program in professional writing," these are service courses akin to ENG 101 delivered by the Writing Program that are designed to complement students' coursework in other majors; as such, these programs do not function as areas of academic concentration within the English major, nor are they led by nationally recognized scholars in the field of technical communication. At SIUC, technical writing appears in a "pre-professional study" concentration and functions as an add-on to the English major rather than as an integrated sequence within its own right. Public universities that do offer related concentrations within the major (UIC and Eastern Illinois) deliver a more generalized "professional writing" track that offers students only the B.A. option and thus offer no plan of study that integrates theory, research, and practices of technical communication with specialized content areas outside the liberal arts. Four other public universities in Illinois (Western Illinois, SIUE, NIU, and Chicago State) offer minors in professional writing or writing and rhetoric; however, none of these focuses specifically on technical writing per se and all associated with only a B.A. degree.

Finally, creating a more intellectually diverse community of students interested in majoring in English studies at ISU will contribute to the vitality of the department in general, but it will also nourish in particular the intellectual lives of our diverse faculty in technical communication, all of whom identify as scholar-teachers whose work exceeds the boundaries of English narrowly conceived. Indeed, the discipline of technical communication was forged in colleges of engineering, and the spirit of collaboration among English and engineering professors and practitioners in industry, which gave rise to a thriving academic field, still very much informs the identities of those who call it their disciplinary home. Consequently, adding a B.S. option will recognize this cross-disciplinary identity and provide tangible evidence to colleagues in technical communication that their work is valued, thereby helping to retain nationally recognized scholars and award-winning teachers and mentors in one of the most marketable fields in the humanities.

5. Describe the expected effects of the proposed program on existing campus programs (if applicable).

Students earning the B.S. degree in English, Technical Writing and Rhetorics will satisfy the general education requirements established by the university for a B.S. degree and thus will complete two rather than three semesters of foreign language study. The faculty in Languages, Literatures, and Cultures have reviewed this proposal and will not stand in the way of its moving forward. A letter of concurrence from the Chair of LLC is attached.

6. Provide a sample four year plan of study demonstrating that a student could realistically complete the program requirements in a specific number of semesters.

[Note: A more readable version of this sample Plan of Study, which models coursework students minoring in Safety would complete, is attached as part of the supporting materials.]

English (B.S.) Technical Writing and Rhetorics Sequence Department of English

The requirements below pertain to the 2020--2021 Undergraduate Catalog and are intended as a guide for academic planning. Students should consult with their academic advisor to discuss their individual plan of study.

Total Hours Required for Technical Writing and Rhetorics – 120 hrs

First Year - Fall Semester (14 credit hours)

ENG 101 or COM 110 (General Education) (3)
ENG 100 (3)
ENG 102 (1)
LAN 111 (4)
General Education course (3)

First Year - Spring Semester (16-17 credit hours)

ENG 101 or COM 110 (General Education) (3)
Literature & Cultural Studies course (3)
LAN 112 (4)
General Education course (3)
General Education course (3)

Second Year - Fall Semester (16 credit hours)

ENG 243, ENG 249, or ENG 283 (3)
Literature & Cultural Studies course (3)
LAN 115 or B.S. - SMT (4)
General Education course (3)
General Education course (3)

Second Year - Spring Semester (15-16 credit hours)

ENG 243, ENG 249, or ENG 283 (3)
General Education course (3)
General Education course (3)
AMALI course or University-wide elective course (3)
Required SMT/Social Science plan of study course (3-4)

Third Year - Fall Semester (15-17 credit hours)

ENG 243, ENG 249, or ENG 283 (3)
ENG 239, ENG 350, or ENG 351 (3)
General Education course (3)
Required SMT/Social Science plan of study course (3-4)
Required SMT/Social Science plan of study course (3-4)

Third Year - Spring Semester (15-17 credit hours)

ENG 239, ENG 350, or ENG 351 (3)
ENG 349 or ENG 353 (3)
General Education course (3)
Required SMT/Social Science plan of study course (3-4)
Required SMT/Social Science plan of study course (3-4)

Fourth Year - Fall Semester (15 credit hours)

ENG 349 or ENG 353 (3)
ENG 391 or ENG 392 (3)
Senior level University-wide elective course (3)
Senior level University-wide elective course (3)
Senior level University-wide elective course (3)

Fourth Year - Spring Semester (14 credit hours)

ENG 300 (3)
ENG 398 (3)
University-wide elective course (3)
University-wide elective course (3)
University-wide elective course (3)

Notes

Please consult with your academic advisor regarding University wide electives and appropriate minors.

ENG 398, Professional Practice, may be taken anytime during a student's Junior or Senior year.

7. Describe the expected curricular changes required, including new courses. If proposals for new courses have also been submitted, please reference those related proposals here:

No curricular changes are expected.

8. Anticipated funding needs and source of funds.

No additional funding is anticipated.

9. **No** Does this program count for teacher education?

10. **No** Is this an Interdisciplinary Studies program?

11. **The following questions must be answered.**

- Yes** Have you confirmed that Milner Library has sufficient resources for the proposed program?
- No** Are more than 120 hours required to complete a degree with this major?
- No** Beyond General Education, does the major require more than 66 semester hours?
- No** Does this B.A., B.S., B.S.Ed. require more than 55 semester hours of major courses?
- No** Does this program stipulate specific general education courses offered in the major department/school as a part of the major requirements only if such courses serve as prerequisites for other courses required by the major?
- No** Is the proposed program intended to be longer than four years (as indicated by the plan of study)?
- Yes** Have letter(s) of concurrence from affected departments/schools been obtained?
A departments/school is affected if it has a program with significant overlap or if it teaches a required or elective course in the program.

12. **Routing and action summary for New Program:**

1. English Department Curriculum Committee Chair

Julie Jung (website) Julie Jung 2/29/2020 12:47:57 PM
Signature Print Date

2. English Department Chair/School Director

Ricardo Cruz (website) Ricardo Cruz 2/29/2020 2:25:51 PM
Signature Print Date

3. College of Arts & Science College Curriculum Committee Chair

Todd Stewart (website) Todd Stewart 9/2/2020 1:16:33 PM
Signature Print Date

4. College of Arts & Science College Dean

Sally Parry (website) Sally Parry 9/2/2020 2:54:54 PM
Signature Print Date

5. University Curriculum Committee Chair

Mary Califf (website) Mary Califf 12/8/2020 2:40:35 PM
Signature Print Date

All new programs (majors, minors, sequences) are routed by the U.C.C. to the Academic Senate