

PROFESSIONAL WRITING

What Types of Jobs Are Available to Professional Writers?

Professional Writing prepares students for careers in non-profit work, professional editing and publishing, technical writing, content management, and web and visual design. It further prepares students for further studies in writing, technical writing, rhetoric, the teaching of writing, and the study of culture.

PW minors are prepared for jobs as...

- Technical Writer
- Grant Writer
- Copywriter
- Assistant Editor
- Communications Coordinator
- Social Media Specialist
- Freelance Writer
- Web Content Writer
- User Experience Researcher
- Web Communications Specialist
- Foundation Development Manager
- Digital Marketing Specialist
- Content Editor

Companies looking for Professional Writers...

- Oshkosh Corporation
- JJ Keller
- Blue Door Marketing
- Candeo Creative
- Future Neenah
- Visit Oshkosh
- Bemis Corporation
- Oshkosh Community Foundation
- Silver Star Marketing
- Stellar Blue Technologies

What Students Are Saying About Professional Writing?

“When I first started my Bachelor’s degree in English at UW Oshkosh, I had a very narrow view of technical writing and what it meant to be a technical communicator. I thought that technical communicators wrote instruction manuals and how-to guides—and that was it. Over time, I learned that we are all technical communicators in a sense, as we attempt to communicate certain information to specific audiences on a daily basis. I think it’s also important to note that the technical communication field is vast—and growing quickly—with jobs in engineering, healthcare, computer systems and software design, media, marketing, business, law, as well as in academia. All of these fields need communicators who can convey complex information clearly and accurately. Currently, I’m working on my Master’s degree in Technical Writing & Rhetorics with a special interest in usability/accessibility research and disability studies. Basically, I consider what audiences are being excluded/marginalized in technical documents and how we can make technical documents more inclusive/accessible. I believe this kind of research is preparing me for both industry and academia as it is making me a more responsive writer and instructor.” — *Alyssa, UWO English alum & current graduate student at Illinois State*

“Over the last six months, I realized that my writing deserved the chance to help other people the way it has helped me. Enrolling in Grant Writing Foundations is my first attempt at suiting up the fight for equality. I want to use the weight of words, the things that brought me safety and security for so long, to prioritize and support those who advocate for the benefit of the public.” — *Emily, Grant Writing Foundations student*

“I have always dreamed of starting a nonprofit organization that increases resources for STEM education in Haiti. Grants can help to offset some of the expenses associated with such an organization. So far, I am very pleased that I took this course.” — *Logan, Grant Writing Foundations student*

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What is Professional Writing?

Professional Writing is a 21-credit minor for students wishing to specialize in writing as an area of expertise. The minor prepares students to become creative, imaginative, and expressive writers and designers who are able to work with a wide range of documents in a variety of workplaces and prepares students to write for a variety of publics.

Students in the minor will...

- (1) develop advanced writing and rhetoric skills with emphasis on writing public and disciplinary communities;
- (2) be prepared with skills to write in digital and technical environments;
- (3) and apply editing techniques to a variety of professional contexts.

Professional Writing Courses

English 207 Introduction to Professional Writing (3 credits)

English 317 Technical Writing (3 credits)

English 389 Digital & Multimodal Writing (3 credits)

English 402 Internship (3 credits)

*English 388 Grant Writing Foundations (3 credits)

*English 385 Topics in Professional & Digital Writing (3 credits)

*English 387 Special Topics in Rhetoric & Composition (3 credits)

*English 322 Theories of Rhetoric & Writing (3 credits)

*select three of those courses to complete the minor