

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION



Salary Information

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the national average salary for a Technical Communicator is **\$70,930**.

Earn Your Degree

- Downtown

Contact

University of Houston-Downtown
713-221-8460
uhd.edu/mstc

Master of Science in Technical Communication (MSTC)

The Master of Science in Technical Communication (MSTC) program will equip you with the skills to produce user-friendly technical documents, and understand communication ethics.

This degree, which can be individualized through a selection of electives, makes the program worthwhile to a range of candidates, including:

- Professional writers seeking promotions to managerial positions.
- Medical professionals seeking skills relevant to producing publishable research manuscripts, public health educational materials, ethical standards declarations, manuals, and professional correspondence.
- Professionals in engineering, science, and technology who need to master the skills of project management and writing results-oriented documents, such as proposals, technical manuals, training materials, and business-to-business communications.
- Public relations and corporate training professionals with the goal of expanding their employment options.
- Undergraduates interested in an applied master's degree, either to increase their employability, or to pursue a doctoral degree in technical communication.

About the Program

The MSTC is a 33-credit-hour program that teaches writing, design, and management skills based on rhetorical principles. The program also is designed to provide opportunities to improve publication and production skills, study project management, and the ethical and global implications of professional communication. The program also affords its students to participate in research, conduct audience analysis and usability tests, create websites and online help documentation.

The MSTC program requires a minimum of 33 hours, comprised of:

- 6 hours of required courses
- 9 hours of skills courses (theory, application, and research)
- 18 hours of elective courses*
- 6 hour final experience option (thesis, capstone, exam, or seminar paper)

*Students are afforded flexibility when satisfying the required 18 hours of elective courses. Specifically, in addition to the 16 MSTC courses identified as electives, students may petition to add a maximum of two undergraduate and graduate courses from the following:

- ENG 5327 Teaching College Writing Practicum
- ENG 6301 Composition Pedagogy
- ENG 6319 Language Development and Variation: Implications for Educators
- CJ 6320 Research Design and Methods
- CJ 6321 Quantitative Analysis in Criminal Justice
- MATH 5309 Business Statistics
- Any undergraduate professional writing course offered at UHD

The degree also has two 9-credit-hour certificate programs: the Graduate Certificate in Plain Language and the Graduate Certificate in Medical and Applied Health Communication.

Affiliated Student Organizations

Sigma Tau Delta - Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter is the UHD chapter of an International English Honors Society, which brings together students who have an interest in literature, culture and intellectual camaraderie. Students inducted into the society connect with other writers, readers, theorists, and critical-thinkers to foster a vibrant culture of literacy on campus. For membership information, please contact Dr. Jillian Hill at hillj@uhd.edu.

Career Options

Graduates of the MSTC program are qualified for writing positions within a myriad of industries, including federal government (technical writing), fundraising (grant and proposal writing), healthcare (medical writing), and the law (legal writing).

UHD is the first and only institution of higher education in the country that offers a Graduate Certificate in Plain Language and a Graduate Certificate in Medical and Applied Health Communication. Both certificates consist of three graduate courses (9 credit hours), and may be taken in addition to the MSTC program to further specialize your degree.