

University of North Texas Technical Communication Chair Search

The Department of Technical Communication invites applications for the position of Chair to begin August 2020. The chair will build upon a strong foundation of industry relationships, support a growing reputation in groundbreaking interdisciplinary research, and continue the development of an empirically grounded program. Duties include promoting scholarly research among department faculty, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, advising students, and serving on committees at various institutional levels.

We seek candidates with sustained, exemplary scholarship and teaching in technical communication, demonstrated leadership, and administrative ability. The chair will provide dynamic leadership to promote scholarly research among department faculty; cultivate critical relationships with stakeholders across UNT, other institutions, and industry; and establish, in collaboration with those stakeholders, innovative and current technical communication curricula.



The Department

The Department of Technical Communication at the University of North Texas is one of only a handful of stand-alone departments of technical communication in the country. Technical Communication is one of 17 departments housed within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS), the largest of the ten colleges at UNT. In twelve years, with ongoing investments from the university and college, our program has grown from two tenure system faculty and two lecturers to eight tenure system faculty and three teaching lecturers. With these faculty investments, our reputation has steadily grown both at the university and within the field.

The Faculty

The strength of UNT's Department of Technical Communication resides in its impressive faculty. The tenure system faculty are committed to advancing the field of technical communication by investigating issues with a social science approach. To have so many faculty dedicated to the principles of empirically driven, methodologically sound, and replicable research within one department remains a definable characteristic within our academic field. The tenure system faculty has published within every major Technical Communication journal, and their award-winning research has also appeared in interdisciplinary journals and proceedings, such as *Journal of Writing Research*, *Across the Disciplines*, *CHI*, and *Journal of Usability Studies*. Additionally, our faculty strive to be excellent instructors. Our teaching effectiveness has been highly rated by our students and CLASS, and our industry involvement and empirical research inform our pedagogical practices.



The Graduate Program

At the graduate level, we offer an established MA in Professional and Technical Communication with a mixture of online and face-to-face course opportunities. Additionally, we offer an online graduate certificate in Teaching Technical Writing. Our students range from recent undergraduates to current Dallas/Fort Worth practitioners seeking an advanced degree. This unique student population reflects our prime location within the DFW Metroplex and the related employment opportunities. According to the STC, the Metroplex employs the fifth most technical communicators in the country. With this ideal placement, our students enjoy 100% success in finding jobs within six months of their graduation. Graduates of the MA program are currently employed at Apple, Microsoft, Texas Instruments, National Instruments, Hewlett-Packard, among many others.

We market our online Certificate in Teaching Technical Writing to non-majors who might teach technical writing as part of their academic careers. Enrollment in this program is rapidly increasing, and we currently have students representing English literature, creative writing, philosophy, and history. The certificate also provides a gateway to the MA.



The Undergraduate Program

We also offer a BA and a BS in Professional and Technical Communication, a minor, a certificate in Technical Communication, and a certificate in Digital Media Studies, which are taught in traditional face-to-face settings. Students within the undergraduate programs are representative of the undergraduate population at UNT. About half our population consists of traditional students who attend college immediately upon high school graduation (though many students transfer credit into UNT). The remainder of our students consists of a wide range of non-traditional students. We recently added the BS in Professional and Technical Communication to attract students from engineering and technology backgrounds. We continue to modify the undergraduate programs by adding industry-relevant curriculum, such as courses in web design, social media, content strategy, and user experience.

In addition to the undergraduate programs, we teach over 100 sections of TECM 2700: Technical Writing each academic year. Students may elect to take this CORE course instead of a traditional composition course. This course is taught to nearly 3000 students each academic year in face-to-face and online settings.



Our Vision We believe that the right candidate for the chairship will collaborate with faculty and other stakeholders to accomplish the following pursuits:

- Integrating relationships with corporate partners into scholarly research initiatives and industry-embedded pedagogies
- Investing in quality scholarship that informs program pedagogy and, in turn, enables our students and alumni to become leaders within the field of technical communication
- Collaborating with the departments within the Division of Communication, Media, and Performance to explore research opportunities, pedagogical experiences, and shared resources

Resources The chair will be responsible for two labs and five computer classrooms exclusively reserved for Technical Communication courses. The Technical Lab and classrooms are administered by a full-time Lab Director, who hires the student Lab Manager and the approximately 20 lab tutors who provide technical support to our students. The Communication Lab provides instructional writing support for technical communication students.



About CLASS The Department of Technical Communication is housed within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS), which, with 17 departments, is the largest of the ten colleges at UNT. The department is also part of the Communication, Media, and Performance Division within the college, which coordinates the resources of academically aligned departments.

About UNT Established in 1890, the University of North Texas is the nation's 25th largest public university with over 38,000 students. UNT is ranked as a Tier One research university by the Carnegie Classification, among the nation's top 131 research institutions. Students come from 50 states and 133 countries to pursue the 105 bachelor, 88 master, and 37 doctoral degree programs. The vibrant, charming campus hosts thousands of concerts, theatre performances, and art exhibitions every year, many in our world-class Murchison Performing Arts Center. UNT's 16 Division I teams compete as part of Conference USA in facilities that include Apogee Stadium, the first stadium to achieve LEED Platinum certification. Alumni include Don Henley, Norah Jones, Bill Moyers, Anne Rice, and Larry McMurtry.



**About Denton and
DFW**

DFW is the fourth largest metro area in the United States and is home to a variety of high-tech businesses, including Fortune 500, Dow 30, and NASDAQ 100 companies. These companies enable our program to build industry ties that allow for unique applied assignments within the classroom as well as networking opportunities for students' careers. DFW is also a cultural hub for the North Texas area, featuring a diverse population, world-class cultural institutions, and the second largest airport in the United States.

Denton is a college city of 136,000 people that is part of the 7 million person Dallas-Fort Worth metro area. Located only 30 minutes from DFW International airport, Denton has been recognized as one of the best music scenes in the country, one of the ten fastest growing cities in the United States, one of "the best small towns in America," and as a "Best Place to Live." Denton also has a vibrant downtown square, which is now the hub for the city's thriving start-up scene.

Contact

Questions about the position may be directed to search chair Brian Richardson at brian.richardson@unt.edu. Applicants should submit their materials to <http://facultyjobs.unt.edu> (system ID number: 6002408). Review of applications will begin on December 1, 2019 and will continue until the position is filled.