

Professional and Technical Communication at **UNT**



WRITE FOR A LIVING AND GET PAID WELL

WHAT IS TECH COMM?

Technical communication (tech comm) is about making information easy to understand. Professional technical communicators do this by:

- Learning what information their audience needs most
- Writing in plain language that is clear and concise
- Designing user-friendly documents, programs, and digital interfaces that make information accessible

Making complex content understandable is a skill that's in high demand, and the career outlook for people who can do it well is promising.



OUR GRADS SUCCEED

Meet James — BA, MA 2017

Technical Writer, Southwest Airlines

What was your experience at UNT like?

"I liked the variety of concepts that I was exposed to in undergrad. I had a lot of fun learning about design, user experience, HTML, and editing. I also got my MA at UNT, and I feel like it helped me hone my skills and pinpoint where I wanted to go with my career. The graduate program helped me make connections, and I completed an internship that led to a great job at Southwest Airlines."

What do you love about technical communication?

"I like the range of disciplines within the field and that you can learn about other subjects on the job. Everyone needs technical communicators, so the job opportunities are endless."



WHAT TECHNICAL COMMUNICATORS DO

On a typical day, a technical communicator might write a proposal, create a page on a website, develop a user guide, or generate content for an app. Most technical communicators work in a technical field and work directly with technology, learning how it works and communicating that to an audience.

Technical communicators often work in the tech sector (businesses like Amazon, IBM, Microsoft, and Google), but you can find them in almost any industry, including engineering, software, telecom, manufacturing, and medical research.



Meet Joey — BA, 2019

UX Content Writer at CGI

Why do you think tech comm is a great field to be in?

"A degree from a dedicated tech comm program definitely sets you apart from other applicants. Once you're applying for internships and jobs, there's a wide variety of industries and types of organizations that have technical communicators—in the DFW area and beyond."

What was your experience at UNT like?

"UNT set me up with the skills I needed to thrive on the job on day one. We use the same industry-standard software I learned in the program, and the wide range of courses prepared me for technical and creative challenges in my career."

In my experience, the instructors were approachable and invested in our success, and the department felt like a small, close-knit community. When we're hiring more technical and UX writers to join our team, UNT Tech Comm grads are usually top-of-the-list."

What advice do you have for parents?

"The professional and technical communication skills transfer to just about any role. If your student shows an interest in writing, design, or technology, encourage them to check out UNT tech comm. Many of my peers started with a single course, worked towards a certificate or minor, and then ended up as majors by graduation."





UNT TECH COMM STUDENTS GET HIRED

UNT graduates with a BA or BS in Professional and Technical Communication regularly get hired by Southwest Airlines, Texas Instruments (TI), National Instruments (NI), Sabre, and other large companies across Texas. To put it simply, a tech comm degree from UNT launches your career.

Meet Sridhar – MA, 2017

Technical Writer, KUBRA Data Transfer

Why do you think tech comm is a great field to be in?

"It's a growing field, and the demand for technical writers is always growing at many companies. A degree in tech comm sets you up for success as a technical writer because most tech writing jobs have a degree requirement. Tech Comm is a field where you get to learn a lot, especially if you get to work with subject matter experts."

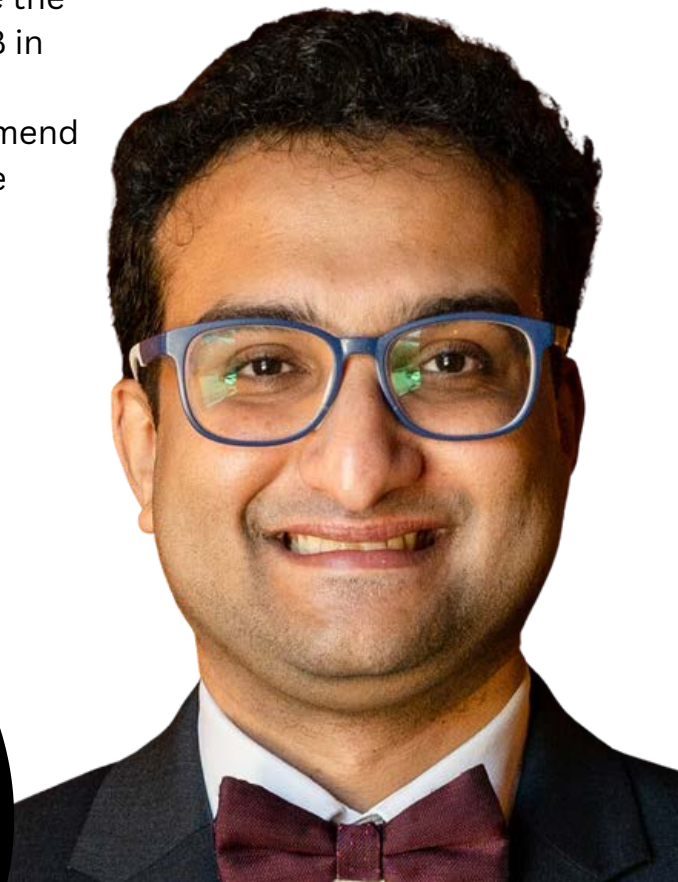
What do you love about technical communication?

"It pays incredibly well for being a writing-focused occupation, you get to learn a lot and possibly pivot into complementary fields like software engineering, product management, and UX writing, and did I mention that it pays well?"

What was your experience at UNT like?

My experience at UNT set me up for a career in Tech Comm. The mandatory internship requirement compelled me to get an internship that I converted into a job. The graduate degree is very job focused and ensures you have enough portfolio pieces to help you land your first job.

I loved all the professors that taught me but I have to single out Dr. Boettger as the one that made the largest impact on me. While I only managed a B in his Editing class, his lessons left me with the confidence to edit SME writing. I highly recommend taking the Tech Comm grad degree at UNT! The classes are tailored to suit you."





TECHNICAL COMMUNICATORS **ARE IN HIGH DEMAND**

Tech Writers Get Hired in Texas

- **Texas** employs more technical communicators than any other state except California (Bureau of Labor Statistics) and was **1st** among the fastest-growing states for tech writers in 2021.
- U.S. News & World Report recently ranked "technical writer" as **#4** in Best Creative & Media Jobs
- Employment of technical writers is expected to grow **6%** between 2021 and 2031, which is 1% higher than the increase expected for all media and communication workers (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Tech Writers Get Paid Well

- The annual median salaries for technical writers have been increasing since 2012.
- The mean annual wage for tech writers in Texas is **\$76,650** according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Entry-level tech writers in DFW make an average of **\$60,000** a year according to salary.com

A Degree from UNT Gives You Options

A technical communication degree can prepare you for a position as:

- A **technical writer** who specializes in writing manuals, instructions, procedures, and more for any type of business
- A **content developer** who researches and creates information used in marketing high-tech products
- A **user experience professional** who conducts user research on web-based applications

Meet Brenna – MA, 2017

Senior Technical Writer, Duda

What was your experience at UNT like?

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Tech Comm department – the classes were applicable to the real world, and the professors were all amazing. I was able to take a variety of classes that helped me build a diverse skill set, from digital content strategy to technical editing to design and development of training materials and more.

This made me a competitive applicant when I graduated and allowed me to keep my options open in terms of what job I wanted to pursue. The projects in the classes all helped me build a portfolio that was key in landing my first job."

What makes tech comm a great field to be in?

"There's such a variety of job options. You can use what you learn in the program to be anything from a technical writer or editor to a content strategist, an instructional designer, a proposal writer, and more. Plus, it doesn't hurt that these are all well-paying jobs."

What do you wish you'd known before starting your tech comm journey at UNT?

"The coursework can be labor intensive, and the professors will challenge you, but it will only make you a better and more competitive applicant when you enter the workforce. It all pays off, trust me!"



MORE THAN TECH WRITING

ONE DEGREE, TONS OF CAREERS

Technical writing is the most common field that our students enter, but with a degree in Professional and Technical Communication from UNT, you'll graduate prepared to take on just about any business-writing career out there.

UX Writer

Write the text found in apps, websites, and anything that has digital functionality.

UX Researcher

Collect and analyze data to design successful content, products, and applications.

Content Writer/Copywriter

Create marketing content online or write advertising content.

Medical/Science Writer

Write about medical treatments, scientific findings, or medical/scientific procedures and processes.

Grant/Proposal Writer

Write grants/proposals to get money for nonprofits or win business contracts.

Technical Editor

Plan, review, and revise content, including copyediting and creating style guides.

Information Architect

Organize content so that users can more easily find information.

Meet Seth — BA, 2019

Proposal Project Engineer, Fujitsu

What was your experience at UNT like?

"By the end of my sophomore year, I had changed my major about 4 times. It wasn't until I took a technical writing class in my 4th semester that I realized, 'Oh, this is what I should've been studying from the beginning!'"

When I started, I was immediately drawn in by the friendliness of the professors and the tight-knit vibe of the classes. One of my favorite things about the program is that, compared to some of the more well-known majors, the Tech Comm classes are always smaller.

This means that, in every class, professors have the opportunity to teach to the individual and not just a big auditorium. I always felt like I was getting meaningful feedback, that my thoughts had value, and when I was stuck, the professors were always happy to help.

I greatly enjoyed my time at UNT. I loved the atmosphere of the campus; everywhere you look there are people there to learn from each other. I had so many great professors from many different departments throughout my education, but the professors in the Tech Comm department really made an impact on me."



FLEXIBLE DEGREE PLANS MADE FOR YOU

BA/BS – 10 REQUIRED COURSES (30 HOURS)

- TECM 2700 – Technical Writing
- TECM 3010 – The Profession of Technical Writing
- TECM 3100 – Visual Technical Communication
- TECM 3200 – Information Design for Electronic Media
- TECM 3550 – Content Strategy in Technical Communication
- TECM 4100 – Writing Proposals
- TECM 4180 – Advanced Technical Communication
- TECM 4190 – Technical Editing
- TECM 4300 – Usability & User Experience
- TECM 4500 – Content Analysis

2 ELECTIVES (6 HOURS)

- TECM 3500 – Digital Media for Professional Communication
- TECM 4250 – Writing Technical Manuals & Procedures
- TECM 4400 – Advanced Information Design
- TECM 4800 – Special Topics
- TECM 4920 – Cooperative Education (Internship)

BA vs BS

BA students have a foreign language requirement (3–12 hours or proficiency). BS students take 2 technology foundation courses (6 hours). Courses include computer science, data analysis, and information science.

CERTIFICATES AND MINORS

- A minor in Technical Communication requires 18 hours (6 courses).
- A Technical Communication certificate requires 12 hours (4 courses)
- A Digital Media Studies certificate requires 15 hours (5 courses)

Learn more about all [your degree options here](#).



YOUR **UNT** JOURNEY HAS BEGUN

Let's talk about what tech comm
at UNT can do for you

Visit: bit.ly/unt-tecm to learn more

