

Overview

The PhD in Technical Communication and Rhetoric (TCR) is the first online doctoral program in the field.

The Texas Tech TCR program is very strong in technology, production, rhetorical theory, rhetorical analysis, rhetoric of science, visual rhetoric, gender studies, and research methods-strengths intersecting with studies in composition, technical communication, and rhetoric. Our faculty are leaders in the profession and in scholarship, active in organizations such as CPTSC, STC, ACM, and IEEE.

Just like our on-site program, the online PhD can be tailored to fit your interests. The program provides a broad approach to technical communication, offering classes in areas such as editing, design, rhetorical theory, online documentation, publications management, and usability testing. You'll learn and practice the methodologies for conducting research in technical communication and rhetoric, as well as gain experience creating online and on-page documents using visual and written communication.

Classes meet online weekly in a synchronous meeting space. Between class meetings, you'll communicate with faculty and other students through e-mail, asynchronous discussion spaces, and video and audio chat. Courses are conducted in three regular academic terms (fall, spring, and summer). In addition, we hold an intensive two-week May workshop on-site, where you can meet fellow students, network, and concentrate on research projects.

Future academics and professionals in fields like technical communication, human resources, consulting, software design, graphic design, engineering, and management will find the online TCR PhD invaluable in advancing their careers.

Benefits

Flexibility. The PhD program allows you to customize your degree to match your interests and goals. Few programs offer so many opportunities for specialization and study.

Online community. The program provides a community of faculty, students, and professionals with whom you can network and learn.

Diverse faculty. Our 14 faculty members specialize in many areas and have won many awards for cutting-edge research and pedagogy. They are strongly committed to mentoring and promoting student development.

Balanced curriculum. The curriculum balances tools and technology with theory and research methodology.

Support. The program provides support services including IT support, library services, and advisement.

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DISTANCE LEARNING

PhD in Technical Communication & Rhetoric



TEXAS TECH
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College of Arts
& Sciences

www.english.ttu.edu/tc/



PhD in Technical Communication & Rhetoric

Program Requirements

In consultation with your advisory committee, you'll design a plan of study that best meets your educational goals. You must complete a total of 60 hours of coursework, including any applicable graduate transfer credit. In addition to the coursework, you must also attend an annual two-week workshop, take a qualifying exam, and write a dissertation.

Coursework

You can finish coursework in two to three years depending on how much relevant graduate work is transferred to Texas Tech. Plan to spend about 10-15 hours a week per course by participating in synchronous discussions, reading assigned texts, and preparing assignments.

May Workshop

In addition to completing coursework, you must attend the annual two-week workshop as well as remain active in the online community. Upcoming workshop dates are May 15-27, 2006.

Qualifying Exam & Dissertation

You'll take a qualifying exam the semester after you have finished your coursework. On passing this exam, you'll write a dissertation, which usually takes between one and three years to complete depending on the nature of the research and the consistency of your effort.

Contact Information

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Application Process

1. Apply online with the Texas Tech Graduate School at www.ttu.edu/gradschool/ by March 1 for summer or fall admission and September 1 for spring admission.
2. Submit a current resume, a personal statement, three letters of recommendation, an academic writing sample, and a signed distance learning agreement at www.english.ttu.edu/tc/dl/.

Cost

Approximate tuition and applicable fees per course are currently \$830 for in-state students and \$1,852 for out-of-state students.

Course Requirements

Pedagogy

3-6 semester credit hours required

- History and Theory of College Composition
- Teaching Technical and Professional Writing

History and Theory

6 semester credit hours required

- History of Rhetoric
- Foundations of Technical Communication

Research Methods

12 semester credit hours required

- Composition Research
- Nine additional graduate hours in research methods courses

Specialization

24 semester credit hours required, balancing theory and application

- Discourse and Technology
- Document Design
- Ethics
- Field Methods of Research
- Graduate Internship
- Online Publishing
- Publications Management
- Rhetorical Analysis of Text
- Rhetoric of Scientific Literature
- Technical Editing
- Technical Manuals
- Technical Reports
- Theoretical Approaches
- Theories of Invention in Writing
- Theories of Written Argumentation
- Usability Testing & Research
- Writing for Publication
- Written Discourse and Social Issues

Optional Interdisciplinary Electives

up to 9 hours of 24-hour TCR specialization above

You may choose up to three language or communication-related courses from English department courses in linguistics or critical theory or from courses in other departments such as Communication Studies, Mass Communications, Psychology, or Business, when those courses are closely related to your specialization. Your advisory committee must approve any interdisciplinary electives.

Optional Minor

15 hours of 24-hour TCR specialization above

The minor offers an opportunity to enhance your ability to do dissertation research or to teach a variety of classes. The minor consists of five courses in a field other than Technical Communication and Rhetoric. You may fulfill the minor through online graduate courses at Texas Tech or with approved transfer hours from other institutions.

The choice of a minor must be approved by your advisory committee as well as by the minor department if the minor is completed in one department. You will need to follow that department's requirements regarding courses and examinations.

"While the delivery of the courses is 'distant,' the relationship between the faculty and graduate students is anything but: the online Ph.D. students have formed a close international community, and the attention given by faculty to students during the May Seminar is both invaluable to students and an exemplary model for all graduate programs."

Sally
Wichita Falls, TX

