

# Bachelor's Degree Program *Communications*

## Specialization: **Technical Communication**

### ABOUT THIS DEGREE PROGRAM

A bachelor's degree in Communications can prepare and empower you to respond critically and creatively to real-world challenges. At DeVry University, our curriculum is developed with input from industry and education leaders across the country. As a result, you can have the specific skill sets employers are seeking in areas, such as public relations, journalism and technical writing.

Upon graduation, you can be proficient in communicating with confidence, clarity and credibility. From information analysis and understanding diversity to collaboration and complex problem solving, the skills you develop can help prepare you for 21<sup>st</sup> century careers in communications.

#### Specializations offered within the Communications degree program:

- Business Communication
- Emerging Media Communication
- Technical Communication

General Education Coursework (credit hours)	38
Core-Degree Coursework (credit hours)	+ 53
Career-Focused Coursework (credit hours)	+ 32
Approximate Credit Hours Required for Graduation (Eight Full-Time Semesters to Complete)	123

### GENERAL EDUCATION COURSEWORK

At DeVry University, we believe in the value of a comprehensive education. This means broadening your knowledge and skill sets beyond the area of your degree program, to prepare you to succeed in today's diverse and evolving workplace.

From day one, you can learn important analytical and communication skills, such as problem solving, reasoning and analysis, academic and professional writing, and mathematics and statistics skills. These skills can better equip you to work across cultures and understand a wide range of concepts that influence your area of study.

#### General Education Coursework:

- Business
- Communication Skills
- Computing
- Humanities
- Natural Sciences
- Personal and Professional Development
- Social Sciences

### CORE-DEGREE COURSEWORK

*all*  
of these  
courses

BUSN-319 Marketing  
ENGL-227 Professional Writing  
MATH-114 Algebra for College Students  
MATH-221 Statistics for Decision-Making

*2*  
of these  
courses

BIS-155 Data Analysis with Spreadsheets with Lab  
BIS-245 Database Essentials for Business with Lab  
CIS-115 Logic and Design  
COMP-129 PC Hardware and Software with Lab  
WGD-201 Visual Design Fundamentals  
WGD-205 Advanced Design and Rapid Visualization  
WGD-210 Digital Imaging Fundamentals

*2*  
of these  
courses

HUMN-405 United States History  
HUMN-410 Contemporary History  
HUMN-412 Post-1945 History  
HUMN-415 Vietnam and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Experience  
HUMN-417 Emergence of the Modern Era  
HUMN-421 Studies in Literature  
HUMN-422 Film and Literature  
HUMN-424 Science Fiction  
HUMN-427 Studies in Poetry  
HUMN-428 Dramatic Literature  
HUMN-445 Principles of Ethics  
HUMN-447 Logic and Critical Thinking  
HUMN-448 Comparative Religions  
HUMN-449 Philosophy of Science  
HUMN-450 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fine Arts

*2*  
of these  
courses

ECON-315 Microeconomics  
LAWS-310 The Legal Environment  
LAWS-420 Legal and Ethical Issues  
POLI-330 Political Science  
POLI-410 Social Movements

*2*  
of these  
courses

BIOS-105 Fundamentals of Human Anatomy and Physiology with Lab  
BIOS-135 Foundations in Biology and Chemistry with Lab  
BIOS-140 Biology with Lab  
CHEM-120 Introduction to General Organic and Biological Chemistry with Lab  
PHYS-216 Physics with Lab  
SCI-204 Environmental Science with Lab  
SCI-224 Astronomy with Lab  
SCI-228 Nutrition, Health and Wellness with Lab

*1*  
course  
with prefix

ACCT ECOM MGMT SMT  
BIS HMT MKTG  
BUSN HRM PROJ  
BSOP HSM SBE

*1*  
of these  
courses

ENGL-216 Technical Writing  
ENGL-219 Journalism  
ENGL-230 Professional Communication  
SPCH-275 Public Speaking  
SPCH-277 Interpersonal Communication  
SPCH-279 Debate and Critical Thinking  
SPCH-282 Small Group Communication

*1*  
of these  
courses

HUMN-232 Ethical and Legal Issues in the Professions  
HUMN-303 Introduction to the Humanities

*1*  
of these  
courses

SOCS-315 Marriage and Family  
SOCS-325 Environmental Sociology  
SOCS-335 Workplace Culture and Communication  
SOCS-350 Cultural Diversity in the Professions  
SOCS-410 Concepts of Diversity



# Bachelor's Degree Program Communications

## Specialization: *Technical Communication*

### ABOUT THIS SPECIALIZATION

Technical writers and editors use print and electronic media to create, manage and edit materials that help people accomplish technical or scientific tasks. They may use a variety of software programs to create online content, develop web platforms or web pages and manipulate graphics and photo images.

Typical tasks include: organizing material, standardizing information, reviewing and revising text, selecting visuals, analyzing specifications, managing processes and arranging for publication and distribution. As a graduate, you may prepare reports, design operating manuals, develop promotional materials or put scientific and technical information into easily understandable language for a variety of audiences.

Graduates of DeVry University's Communications degree program with a specialization in Technical Communication may consider careers including:

- Documentation Designer
- Science and Medical Writer
- Technical Communicator
- Technical Editor
- Technical Writer

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of technical writers is expected to grow 18 percent between 2008 and 2018, much faster than the average for all occupations. According to its *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, "job prospects are expected to be good for those with solid writing and communications skills and a technical background."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition*, Technical Writers, on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/oco/ocos319.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos319.htm) (visited June 20, 2011).

<sup>2</sup>O\*NET OnLine, Technical Writers, on the Internet at [www.online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/27-3042.00](http://www.online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/27-3042.00) (visited June 20, 2011).

#### In New York, DeVry University operates as DeVry College of New York.

Program and course requirements and availability vary by location. Some courses may be available online only. Refer to the current academic catalog for more detailed information. DeVry University operates as DeVry Institute of Technology in Calgary, Alberta. DeVry is certified to operate by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. AC0060. DeVry University is authorized for operation by the THEC, [www.state.tn.us/thec](http://www.state.tn.us/thec) Nashville Campus – 3343 Perimeter Hill Dr., Nashville, TN 37211. ©2011 DeVry Educational Development Corp. All rights reserved. Version 7/20/11

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### KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

**WRITING<sup>2</sup>** — Prepare effective and appropriate written communication by audience.

**CRITICAL THINKING<sup>2</sup>** — Use logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

**COMPREHENSION AND TRANSLATION<sup>2</sup>** — Explain in non-technical terms what information means and how it can be used.

**DEDUCTIVE REASONING<sup>2</sup>** — Apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers.

**INFORMATION PROCESSING<sup>2</sup>** — Compile, code, categorize, calculate, tabulate, audit, or verify information or data.

**CATEGORY FLEXIBILITY<sup>2</sup>** — Generate or use different sets of rules for combining or grouping things in different ways.

**COMPLEX PROBLEM SOLVING<sup>2</sup>** — Identify complex problems and review related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.

**INFORMATION ORDERING<sup>2</sup>** — Arrange items or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations).

### CAREER-FOCUSED COURSEWORK

*all*  
of these  
courses

COMM-491	Senior Project I
COMM-492	Senior Project II
TC-160	Perspectives on Technology
TC-220	Rhetorical Strategies for Technical Communication
TC-310	Document Design
TC-320	Advanced Technical Writing and Editing
TC-360	Visual Design

*2*  
of these  
courses

TC-420	Marketing and Corporate Communications
TC-430	Proposal and Grant Writing
TC-440	Web Design
TC-450	Scientific and Medical Writing

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