

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION

ENGINEERING TECHNICAL COMMUNICATIONS

Engineering Technical Communications (ETC) fulfills an important role in the Department of Engineering Education by helping to emphasize the importance of effective communication throughout students' studies in engineering. We consult and collaborate with engineering faculty to enhance the writing and communication components of their courses.

Our focus aligns with the demand for well-rounded engineers who not only have the required technical skills, but also the ability to use those skills in a demanding professional environment. This means working both in our own classrooms and through collaborations with engineering faculty to help students build the strong communication and professional skills that are a vital part of innovation, problem solving, working with teams, and bringing ideas to life.



ETC IN THE CLASSROOM

Our primary course offering, ENGR 2367: American Attitudes About Technology, meets the University Learning Objectives for second-level writing and social diversity in the U.S. The course is designed to prepare students for the visual, written, and spoken forms of communication they will practice during their academic coursework, during their job searches, and within the workplace. With an eye on developing both technical and professional communication skills, students practice strategies for critically analyzing audiences and contexts, engage in real-world applications of rhetorical principles, and utilize software skills to produce professional documents and presentations. Students learn how to apply rhetorical principles in effective communication. The curriculum stresses the importance of each stage of the writing process and teaches students varied strategies for researching and documenting sources.

With scenario-based assignments, our curriculum aims to provide students with the necessary tools to adapt their writing style, level of technicality, and document organization to meet the expectations and needs of a client or supervisor.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Flexible and practical communication skills are taught as a strategic process of understanding audiences and their needs. While critically reflecting on each stage of the writing process, students practice strategic communication by learning and producing standard professional workplace genres.

JOB SEARCH PREPARATION

Creating job materials, preparing for interviews, and learning how to identify and express their interests and values as part of the job search process ensures students will be prepared to enter the workforce.

PROFESSIONALISM

Effective communication skills are the core of career success and our students develop those skills in practical ways so they will be prepared to thrive in a professional environment.

ETC COLLABORATIONS

Faculty from Engineering Technical Communications regularly collaborate and consult with other educators, programs, and professionals. These collaborations are wide-ranging and include working with individual instructors to assess effective writing assignment prompts to helping departments evaluate the discipline-specific writing students practice in their programs. Our multi-disciplinary perspective and connections help us ensure that students are developing strong communication and professional skills throughout their education at OSU.

Interested in learning more or working with ETC? Contact hall.1812@osu.edu.

COURSE-SPECIFIC PUBLICATIONS



A Guide to Technical Communications: Strategies & Applications by Lynn Hall and Leah Wahlin (Editors)

Used in our second-level writing courses, this textbook focuses on developing both technical and professional communication skills. It approaches professional communication from a rhetorical perspective—focusing on audience and purpose—and provides students with tools for success in producing the genres of communication common in professional environments (application materials, reports, proposals, instructions, presentations). As the title suggests, the textbook is designed to provide strategies and real-world applications to assist students in transitioning from traditional academic writing to workplace communication.



Fundamentals of Engineering Technical Communications by Leah Wahlin (Editor)

By focusing on the unique concerns of the engineering context and addressing a range of topics from writing style to email etiquette to preparing lab reports and presentations, the goal of this book is to help students develop a foundation of strong and adaptable communication skills and habits applicable both in their first year of engineering courses and beyond.