

# Engineering

## The Department of **TECHNICAL**

## **COMMUNICATION**

at the University of Washington



The purpose of Technical Communication is to serve as the primary communication line between technology and its users, and between scientists and the users of scientific information. Its goal is to make technologies more useful and meaningful and scientific information more accessible.

Technical Communication is one of today's fastest changing and fastest growing fields in academia and industry. Not long ago, TC concerned itself almost exclusively with print documents. Today, however, the work of a technical communicator varies greatly among different working environments.

The involvement of technical communicators often begins with the design process and ends after the final testing of product usability and user support. In order to complete this process, a technical communicator must be able to interpret and present complex information in a readable form to various types of audiences. A strong combination of language, visual, and analytical skills is necessary to succeed.

Following are a few examples of the types of jobs performed by our graduates. (If you're looking for specific job openings, check Getting Jobs and Internships.)

Technical writers and editors design, write, and edit manuals and online help in

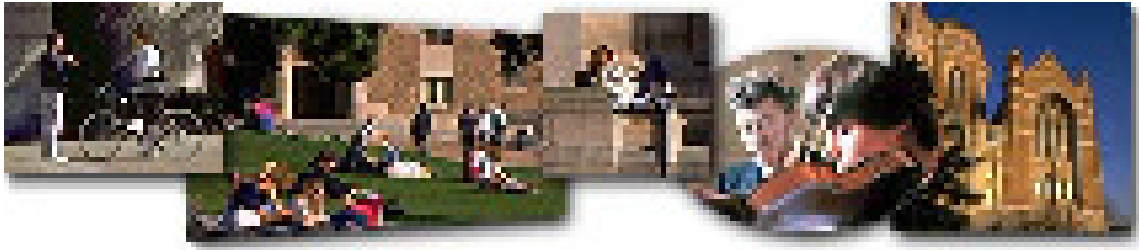
the software industry and other technical fields. In other contexts, they may interpret scientific and technical information for policy makers or for the general public.

Science writers and editors work engineers and scientists to write environmental impact statements, scientific journal articles, and other scientific documents.

Multimedia and Web developers write or edit on-line information in many forms, including on-line help, multimedia products, and web pages.

Usability engineers and interface designers help software developers make and test programs that are more user-friendly.

Proposal writers help engineers and scientists write successful proposals.



## A Message from Dr. Judith Ramey

*I welcome you to the web site of the Department of Technical Communication at the University of Washington, one of the most highly regarded TC programs in the country. To find out a little more about Technical Communication, choose from the topics below:*

*TC at the University of Washington. - Our vision of what TC is all about -- and why the University of Washington is one of the best places to study it.*

*- Description of the Field. An overview of what technical communication is.*

*- Jobs in Technical Communication. Descriptions of some of the many roles filled by technical communicators.*

*- History of the TC Department. A timeline of significant events in the department's growth.*

## Research and Facilities

The TC Department is well-known for its research in Technical Communication and related fields. The following TC facilities support both faculty and student work:

**TC Computer Lab.** Located in 19 Loew Hall, this lab is available to anyone enrolled in TC courses. PCs, Macs, scanners, printers, and a wide variety of software applications are available. More details to be posted soon!

**Technical Japanese Computer Lab.** This lab is available to anyone enrolled in Technical Japanese courses. Choose this link for more details.  
**Laboratory for Usability Testing and Evaluation (LUTE).** Check back soon for more details about LUTE, or see the brief description under "TC Puts People First".

**Engineering Writing Center (EWC).** Located on the third floor of the Engineering Annex, the EWC helps engineering and pre-engineering students improve their writing skills.

## Courses and Programs

The Department of Technical Communication offers a wide variety of degree programs, certificate programs, and other course offerings to meet the needs of undergraduates, graduates, and working professionals.

To find out more about courses and programs offered by the TC Department, choose a topic from below:

**Bachelor's Program** for undergraduates already accepted to the University of Washington. **Master's Day Program** for those interested in graduate study during the day. **Master's Evening Program** for those interested in graduate study during the evening. **Minor Program** for undergraduates in other departments. **Technical Japanese Program** for graduate students and working professionals interested in Japanese. **Certificate Program** for working professionals.