

ons specialists . information designers . social media . science journalism . public relations . corporate communication . marketing communication . information architecture . healthcare communication . writing and editing . communication . technical writing . usability research

Why Choose Professional Writing?

The short answer is that we can offer you one of the best, most flexible education in professional writing available. You'll work with distinguished faculty in small classes, develop both fundamental and specialized skills relevant to your career goals, and have the advantage of tapping into our almost 30 years of experience educating professional and technical writers. We firmly believe that you, like our current students and class of 400 alumni, will find the program to be a strong, lasting platform for an interesting, varied, and rewarding communication career. Our particular strengths include the following:

Flexible Curriculum

Professional Development

Emphasis on Writing as a Foundational

How Does the 4+1 Program Work?

The MAPW usually requires 3 semester hours of course work for a total of 12 courses plus a required internship. Students who major in professional writing, technical writing, Creative Media, or who have taken appropriate writing and rhetoric courses as part of their undergraduate studies, can, upon demonstrating to the program and approval of the program director, be recommended for up to 4 courses toward the M.A. The required internship can be done in the summer between the student's senior and M.A. year, the following summer, or in some instances, during the M.A. candidacy year.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Juniors and Seniors who major in Professional Writing, Technical Writing, or have taken 4 relevant courses. Relevant courses are generally those courses designed with a "writing" or "rhetoric" course by the English Department. Typical examples would be 76-390 Styl, 76-373 Argument, 76-391 Document and Information Design, 76-487 Web Design, or 76-389 Rhetorical Grammar.

All students interested in the program are encouraged to consult with the MAW director to help plan their junior and senior years to be sure they meet the qualifications. Students who have not taken 4 liberal courses are encouraged to apply to the program but may need to take up to the full 3 semester hours of course work.

Alumni of the English Department are also welcome and invited to apply.

What Happens if I have More than 4 Qualifying Courses?

For qualifying courses beyond the 4th to be used to reduce requirements for the M.A., you may be granted an exemption for specific courses or requirements leading to them through the same prior courses. You would still need to complete 8 courses for the M.A. but may have a lot of choices in place of requirements.

How Can I Find out What Requirements and Electives I Might Have?

Make an appointment to talk with the MAPW program director, who will be happy to give you recommendations and suggest the various ways in which your courses can be checked against MAPW requirements.

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If you're a current CMU student the first step should be to schedule a meeting with the MAPW director to express your interest. Then, go to the "Application" section of the website, complete the application form, and submit it along with all of the following documents:

- A current resume
- A statement of intent
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Transcripts from all undergraduate institutions you've attended
- 3-5 writing samples.

The application includes specific instructions on these.

