

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE

The M.S. in Technical Communication and Information Architecture enhances a technical communication core with specialized concepts, skills, and tools for designing, implementing, and managing websites and related digital media. This degree provides students with expertise for a number of tasks relevant to mid-level and advanced positions in the workplace: website design, website project management, information structure and retrieval, knowledge management, and usability testing and evaluation.

Coursework

33 credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree including:

- TCIA core (18 credit hours)
- Electives (minimum of nine credit hours)
- Project or thesis (minimum of three credit hours)

Examinations

Project review or thesis exam

Curriculum

Students preparing for careers in industry are advised to take the project option, while students preparing for a Ph.D. may wish to take the thesis option. The exam committee for each option requires two Category 1 faculty members from the Department of Humanities, at least one of them from the graduate program in technology and humanities. Students may apply up to six credit hours in one of the following courses: COM 594 or COM 591.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Courses		(18)
COM 525	User Experience Research and Evaluation	3
COM 528	Document Design	3
COM 529	Technical Editing	3
COM 530	Standards-Based Web Design	3
COM 531	Web Application Development	3
COM 541	Information Structure and Retrieval	3
or COM 542	Knowledge Management	
Electives		(9-12)
Select 9-12 credit hours ¹		9-12
Master's Project or Thesis		(3-6)
COM 594	Project ²	3-6
or COM 591	Research and Thesis for Master's Degree	

Minimum degree credits required: 33

¹ 9-12 credit hours of any 500-level COM course, or other relevant 500-level course within the Department of Humanities; or, with adviser and director approval, any 500-level course elsewhere in the university where a student meets the prerequisites.

² Students pursuing the project option are required to take between three to six credit hours of COM 594; students pursuing the thesis option are required to take between three to six credit hours of COM 591.