Our degree in Technical Writing and Communication offers a unique combination of written, digital, oral and visual communication theory and practice as it relates to interdisciplinary areas of science and technology. Core courses address writing and editing, rhetorical theory, visual rhetoric and document design, usability, and technical communication practices. Students combine core courses with one of four sub-plan areas in technology or science: information technology and design, biological and health sciences, legal discourse and public policy, and environmental science.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study Technical Writing and Communication at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts prepare students for the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.

Meet Our Students
How does a liberal arts education help you prepare for a dynamic career? Lauren Holly, a proud liberal arts student, is a senior studying technical writing and communication with a sub-plan of biology and health sciences. Read about this Charles & Myrtle Stroud Scholarship recipient.

Read more about Lauren's story, and learn more about our undergraduate program.

Student Experiences

Internships: Gain Valuable Experience in the Twin Cities and Beyond

Did you know? CLA Career Services has its very own internship reflection course! Students taking an internship can use this course to reflect on ways that their work experience is preparing them for successful careers - and receive credit for the work.

Learning Abroad: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy

Learn more about study abroad for Technical Writing and Communication majors.

Undergraduate Research: Turn Curiosity into New Knowledge

The Department of Writing Studies is home to a core of internationally recognized scholars who explore and expand our understanding of writing and the ways people use written texts to shape the world. Our research and teaching interests range widely, but with particular strengths in rhetorical theory and history, scientific and technical communication, writing pedagogy, textual analysis, digital literacies, and—more generally—the relationships among writers, readers, and broader social
Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

• University Technical and Professional Association of Writing

Meet Our Faculty

Meet Our Alumni

For alumna Austyn Rask, her technical writing and communications major combined the things she loves: science and writing. From the skills she developed as part of her degree, she now helps organizations that want to create bridges of understanding between generations.

Read more about Austyn's story.

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives
CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine, business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.

“The education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman

You might also explore

Journalism and Mass Communication
Communication Studies
English
History

Associated Careers

Editors; News Analysts, Reporters, and Correspondents; Public Relations Specialists; Technical Writers; Web Designers; Writers
Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information

TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below:

- Course plans before transferring
- Estimated time to graduation
- Career preparation in CLA
- Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
- Connecting with major/minor departments