

SCIENCE WRITING



"Science writers bridge the gap between the scientific community and society so that all can benefit from the new knowledge that science creates."

-Brent Horton, Asst. Prof. of Biology

Climate change, energy revolutions, astronomical discoveries, unprecedented weather events, invasive species, medical controversies, epidemics and more define the direction of our planet. Scientists have a big role to play in these issues, but equally important are the writers who communicate science to the public. This program will help you turn research findings into action, shape public policy, raise awareness of pressing social issues and alert the public of unseen risks.

DEGREES/CONCENTRATIONS

MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, B.A. IN SCIENCE WRITING

This program is grounded in the foundational knowledge of communicating information effectively and appropriately while also developing an understanding of general scientific knowledge necessary to investigate and comprehend technical content. Students will be challenged to accurately translate scientific discoveries and developments into lay language and also place these developments into historical, personal, political, economic and social perspectives.

DOUBLE MAJOR

Make some of your classes count twice by double majoring in Science Writing + Biology, Earth Science, English, Chemistry or other majors. Courses only count once for a major and a minor, but you can count as many of the same credits as you are able towards two majors! For example, if you took Environmental Meteorology, it could count both as Core Two of Science Writing and towards a major in Earth Science.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate foundational understanding in at least two of the following sciences: biology, chemistry, earth science or physics.
- Demonstrate skills in writing about issues in science using print, digital and social media.
- Apply journalistic values and ethical standards in traditional news media and in emerging electronic venues for science writers.
- Analyze and write about science in a larger social context involving environmental, technological, health and/or political issues.

CAREER PATHS

- Journalist
- Energy industry communicator
- Governmental communicator for regulatory agencies
- Legislative staff on science issues
- Grant writer
- Science-related non-profit writer
- Communicator in medical/health agencies
- Science & technology blogger



Science Writing students can further refine their skills and develop additional specializations with minors in such fields as history, environmental policy and regulation, political science, water resources, land use, philosophy and more.



Core One (18 credit hours)

- Press and Society
- Fundamentals of Journalism
- Feature and Magazine Writing
- Editing for Publication
- Special Topics in Science Writing
- Science Writing Seminar
- Science Writing Internship

Core Two (20 credit hours)

Choose courses in two of the following disciplines:

- Biology (such as Zoology, Genetics, Botany)
- Physics (such as Physics & Evolution of Western Civ)
- Chemistry (such as Environmental Chemistry)
- Earth Science (such as Natural Hazards, Environmental Meteorology, Climate Change)

Capstone Experience (3 credit hours)

- Science Writing Workshop
- Science Writing Internship

Related Elective Courses (9 credits min.)

Choose math and science courses related to student's area of interest outside of the disciplines selected in Core 2.

Recommended General Education Courses:

- Philosophy of Science
- Philosophy and Neuroscience
- The Global Environment
- Resources and the Environment
- Fundamentals of Safety, Health and Environmental Issues
- Perspectives in Environmental Awareness
- Humanity and Environment
- Global Climate Change: Science & Policy
- Futurology
- Sustainability
- Scientific Advances
- Technical Writing



"Use your interest in science, your skill as a writer, and your natural creativity to shape a promising career."

-Jill Craven, Department Chair of English

WRITING ADVISORS:

- Dr. Justin Mando, Assistant Professor of Science and Technical Writing
- Dr. Caleb Corkery, Associate Professor of English

SCIENCE ADVISORS:

- Dr. Richard Clark, Professor of Meteorology
- Dr. Robert Vaillancourt, Associate Professor of Oceanography
- Dr. Jean Boal, Professor of Animal Behavior and Marine Biology
- Dr. Chris Hardy, Professor of Plant Systematics, Evolution, Biodiversity Informatics
- Dr. Edward Rajaseelan, Professor of Chemistry
- Dr. Sean Hendrick, Associate Professor of Physics

