

## **M.A. English or Technical Writing Graduate Certificate: How to Get Started**

### **Greetings!**

Please visit the following sites to learn more about our Graduate Programs.

The best place to begin is by reading the [Graduate English Handbook](#)

Current tuition and fee rates are available through [Louisiana Tech's Comptroller](#)

The Graduate School's requirements are located in the [Louisiana Tech Catalog](#)

Projected English offerings may be found on our [Upper Level Course Schedule](#)

If you would like to enter the M.A. in English Degree Program or the Technical Writing Graduate Certificate Program, please apply by using the online admissions system through the Louisiana Tech Graduate School. If you prefer, download a paper copy of the application from their web pages and mail it directly to them. Both the online application and the PDF application are located here:

### **[Graduate School Admissions](#)**

#### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

Q: My undergraduate major is not in English. Am I eligible to earn my M.A. from Louisiana Tech?

A: Yes, if you have a minor in English, or you completed the equivalent number of undergraduate hours in English, or you have a degree in a related field that we determine has prepared you for graduate-level studies in English. However, these students are often required to complete supplemental undergraduate coursework with grades of "A" or "B" during their first year as a graduate student. The amount of additional coursework required is determined by our assessment of your transcript and writing samples.

Q: Do I need a specific academic background to apply to the Technical Writing Certificate Program?

A: No, but you do need an undergraduate degree, and you must meet the Graduate School's required GPA for unconditional entrance.

Q: The Graduate School's application refers to GRE scores and letters of recommendation. Are these required by your programs?

A: No. The Graduate School's application is for applicants to all graduate programs across the university. Each program has individual requirements. To be considered for the M.A. in English, you must submit a completed application, the application fee, and official transcripts. We do not

require GRE scores or recommendation letters for either the M.A. or the Certificate. However, we do require the following two items from M.A. applicants (but not from Certificate applicants): 1) 10-15 pages of your writing that ideally should be in the form of one or two academic, research-based essays; 2) a one-page statement of purpose describing your academic interests and professional goals. Send these documents via post or as email attachments to Dr. Rudnicki if you are applying online, or include them if you are mailing your application or applying in person.

Q: I've completed graduate coursework at other universities. How many of those hours will transfer?

A: As many as nine hours may potentially transfer, but the coursework must have been completed within the previous six years, and you must provide course syllabi, catalog descriptions, research papers, and transcripts in order to submit the request.

Q: My residence is too far from campus to commute. Can I complete the program online?

A: Yes, the Technical Writing Graduate Certificate is fully online. Our M.A. degree in English has an online option as well, but only certain courses are offered online in certain quarters, and many of these are currently in the areas of Technical Writing or Rhetoric and Composition. A typical online M.A. degree plan of study might include 18 hours of Technical Writing, 6 hours of Tech/ULM joint coursework, 6 hours of related coursework approved by your advisor in disciplines such as Business, History, Speech, or Education, and one three-hour internship.

Q: How long does it take to finish these programs?

A: This depends on you, but a typical timeline for earning the M.A. degree is two years, or six consecutive quarters, excluding summers, by taking six hours (two classes) for five quarters and three hours in the final quarter. The Technical Writing Certificate can be completed in one year or three consecutive quarters, also excluding summers, by taking five courses approved by your advisor. We currently offer no graduate-level Technical Writing in the summer quarters. Many other students choose to take one course per quarter, in which case the time required to complete a program is approximately doubled.

Q: Once I apply, how long will it be before I receive notice?

A: Applicants are typically notified within one month of all required materials being received by the Graduate School, and often sooner, but this may vary due to application volume.

Q: If I receive an acceptance letter, what do I do then?

A: Contact the head of Graduate Studies in English ([Dr. Rudnicki](#)) if accepted as an M.A. student, or the Coordinator of Technical Writing ([Dr. Roach](#)) if accepted as a Certificate student. One of them will help you register for your first quarter and prepare an initial plan of study.