



University of
Pittsburgh

Dietrich School

Public Communication of Science and Technology Certificate

www.WritingInstitute.Pitt.edu/PCST

Revised: 10/2020

Overview

Writing plays a crucial role in the lives of people after they leave college as they work, volunteer, attend professional schools, and advocate for themselves and others. The Public Communication of Science and Technology (PCST) Certificate is designed for science- and technology-oriented students in any major who understand the value of being able to communicate their research outside their own narrow field, who know that they will need to convince others to support their research, and who anticipate that they will need to communicate the implications of their research to the public. It will also serve students who want to pursue a career as a writer in science and technical fields.

Students will use the knowledge and abilities taught in this certificate in a variety of fields: to convey the significance of research to the public, grantors, institutions, and colleagues; to educate as part of the mission for public service institutions, such as museums and science centers; to craft messages to enhance patient education and care in medical contexts; to educate policy makers on the most effective solutions to problems; to communicate theory and studies in scientific and technological contexts; as editors and writers for journals that publish research findings; as journalists working science beats; and as artists working with themes, images, materials, and ideas from scientific research.

The certificate program requires 18 credits, described as follows.

Requirements for the Public Communication of Science and Technology Certificate

Core course

ENGCOMP 0430 Public Communication of Science and Technology

Using Information Technology; select one of the following courses

ENGCOMP 0520 Integrating Writing and Design
ENGCOMP 0610 Composing Digital Media
ENGCOMP 1130 Projects in Digital Composition

Electives; select three of the following courses

ENGCOMP 0401 Written Professional Communication: Topics in Diversity
ENGCOMP 0412 Engineering Communication in a Professional Context
ENGCOMP 0432 Writing for Environmental Advocacy
ENGCOMP 0450 Research Writing
ENGCOMP 0521 Writing with Data
ENGCOMP 0530 Writing for the Sciences
ENGCOMP 0535 Writing in the Health Science Professions
ENGCOMP 0600 Introduction to Technical Writing
ENGCOMP 1101 Language of Science and Technology
ENGCOMP 1102 Language of Medicine
ENGCOMP 1402 Grant Writing for Research

ENGCOMP 1430 Usability Testing in Technical Writing
ENGCOMP 1900 Internship: Public and Professional Writing
ENGFLM 0585/FMST 0790 Technologies of the Body
ENGLIT 0512 Narrative and Technology
ENGLIT 0541 Literature and Medicine
ENGLIT 0612 Literature and Science
ENGLIT 0710 Contemporary Environmental Literature
ENGLIT 1005 Literature and the Environment
ENGWRT 1394 Science Writing
GSWS 0400 Gender and Science

Capstone course; select one of the following courses

ENGCOMP 1910 Bridge Seminar
ENGCOMP 1911 PCST Capstone

These courses count as electives for students who are majors in the department offering the course.

GEOL 1313 Communication for Environmental Professionals
GEOL 1315 Communication in the Geosciences

Grade Requirements

Students are expected to achieve a minimum grade of C in each course required for this certificate.

Satisfactory/No Credit Option

There is no limit to the number of courses that can be taken on the S/NC basis for this certificate.

For more information

Visit the certificate's Web page at

www.WritingInstitute.Pitt.edu/PCST for more details.

Questions about the certificate can be addressed to Amy Flick
(AIF12@Pitt.edu).