



**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
AND TECHNOLOGY**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis

*Approved by Associate Dean
James Mohler on 2/9/16.
(Also approved by University
Registrar, Jerry Ross.)
- Correspondence in file.*

To: Dr. James Mohler, Associate Dean of the Purdue University Graduate School 

From: Dr. David Russomanno, Dean of the Purdue School of Engineering and Technology, IUPUI 
Ms. Valerie Lim Diemer, Director of Graduate Programs & Admissions, Purdue School of Engineering and Technology, IUPUI 

CC: Dr. Pete Hylton, Chair of the Purdue School of Engineering and Technology Graduate Education Committee, IUPUI
Dr. Charles Feldhaus, Interim Chair of the Technology Leadership & Communication Department, IUPUI
Dr. Corinne Renguette, Assistant Professor of Technical Communication, Director of the TCM Program, IUPUI
Dr. Marjorie Rush Hovde, Associate Professor of Technical Communication, Director of the Department of Technology Leadership & Communication's Graduate Program, IUPUI

Date: 1/22/2016

RE: **Requesting a Purdue graduate designation for Technical Communication (TCM) courses**

The Technical Communication (TCM) Program in the Department of Technology Leadership & Communication in the Purdue School of Engineering & Technology at IUPUI would like to offer graduate courses (and possibly later a certificate and/or concentration) within the Purdue School of Engineering and Technology's MS in Technology degree program.

In the past, TCM has offered only undergraduate courses with the TCM designation, but we are now requesting a graduate designation for TCM courses. (TCM does not have an equivalent department on other Purdue campuses, so this designation would be unique to the IUPUI campus.)

We offer information below about

- Plans for initial courses with the graduate TCM designator
- Plans for growth of the TCM graduate program, including hiring of faculty and creation of graduate curriculum
- Plans for a proposal in the future for a new graduate certificate and/or concentration
- Timeframe for this new initiative

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Plan for future courses with this designator

At this time, we plan to propose several new courses with the TCM designation. All courses will be unique to the IUPUI campus and will not be Purdue system courses. Required course proposal materials are currently working their way through the IUPUI Purdue School of Engineering and

Technology approval process. We anticipate that the materials will be sent to the PUWL campus for the next level of review and approval in spring 2016.

These courses are intended to appeal to at least two groups of graduate students:

- 1) Students who wish to focus on technical communication and
- 2) students pursuing technical degrees, especially the IUPUI MS in Technology, who wish to improve their technical communication knowledge and abilities.

Proposed courses, with tentative numbers, include

TCM 51000 Effective Workplace Technical Communication

TCM 52000 Teaching Technical & Professional Communication

TCM 53000 Visual Technical Communication

TCM 54000 Managing Document Quality

TCM 55000 Research Approaches for Technical and Professional Communication

These courses have been offered under "special topics" course numbers and have been successful in the past. We anticipate offering each course annually or bi-annually, in response to student demand.

Plan for growth of graduate program, including hiring of faculty and creation of graduate curriculum

The proposed courses will fit into the curriculum of the current interdisciplinary MS in Technology sponsored by three Technology Departments in IUPUI's Purdue School of Engineering and Technology. (See Appendix A for an overview of the degree as well as concentrations, certificates, and focus areas within this degree program.)

The MS in Technology is designed for workplace professionals who wish to expand their knowledge and applied skills in a technical field. Throughout the years of offering this degree program, faculty members have discerned a need to improve students' technical communication abilities. In addition, faculty have received requests recently from prospective students who wish to specialize in technical communication while earning the MS in Technology.

Because the field of technical communication is becoming more complex with the introduction of single-sourcing software and the use of electronic content management systems, we see the MS in



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Technology as an appropriate site for developing professionals who are well equipped to lead in the creation of effective technical communication.

Initially, we hope to offer TCM courses as electives for MS in Technology students and/or as a “focus area,” an informal cluster of courses related to a specific discipline or field of study that does not appear on the student’s transcript.

After we have approval for the TCM graduate courses and have offered the courses for a few semesters demonstrating a track record of acceptable enrollment, we will explore proposing a graduate concentration and/or graduate certificate in technical communication that could be earned in conjunction with the MS Tech degree. The certificate could also be a stand-alone graduate certificate. Enrollment trends will affect these developments which are potentially a few years from implementation.

We do not anticipate creating a separate master’s degree in TCM; we believe we can work most effectively within the current structure of the MS Tech degree program.

As we gain more graduate students, we may develop and offer additional courses to enhance students’ abilities in technical communication. Topics of these courses may include but are not limited to: Technical Communication in an Agile Development Environment, Risk Communication in Technical Contexts, International Issues in Technical Communication, Technical Communication in Academic Contexts, and Content Management in Technical Communication. Additionally, we plan to seek approval for a variable title course number.

As for hiring additional faculty, those decisions would depend in part on the growth of the graduate program and on the growth of the recently approved undergraduate TCM Bachelors of Science. At this time, we will be able to offer courses using existing TCM faculty. However, as demand increases, it may be necessary to seek additional faculty members commensurate with needs.

Submitting a proposal in the future for a new graduate certificate and/or concentration

As mentioned above, we do not anticipate creating a new Master’s degree in TCM. However, we would like to begin to offer TCM as a non-transcriptable “focus area,” then move to proposing a graduate certificate and/or a transcriptable concentration. However, our first steps are to request a TCM graduate course designation and to gain approval for the courses listed above.

Timeframe for this new initiative

1. *Spring 2016.*
 - Request a TCM Graduate designation
 - Submit new course request materials.



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- Offer two TCM courses on a trial basis. (53000 – current enrollment of 10 students – and 55000)
- 2. *Summer 2016.*
 - Offer one TCM course on a trial basis. (51000)
- 3. *Fall 2016.*
 - Offer TCM as an informal focus area within the MS in Technology. (If course approvals are not complete at that time, we will offer proposed TCM courses under the OLS 58100 Special Topics number.)
 - Offer two TCM courses. (52000 and 54000)
 - Develop materials requesting a TCM Concentration within the MS in Technology and/or a graduate TCM certificate.

Attachment: Appendix A

