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Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template

Institution Submitting Request: Utah State University

Proposed Title: Change of Program Name from Master of Science in English with Specialization in Technical Writing to Master of Technical Communication.

Currently Approved Title: Master of Science in English with Specialization in Technical Writing

School or Division or Location:

Department(s) or Area(s) Location: Department of English

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code¹ (for new programs):

Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): 00.0000

Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): August, 2014

Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

R401-5		R401-6	
<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>		<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>	
Section #	Item	Section #	Item
4.1.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor*	6.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
5.1.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/> New Emphasis on an Existing Degree*	6.1.5	<input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Unit
5.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Proficiency Not Eligible for Financial Aid		
5.1.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs		
5.1.4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name Change of Existing Programs		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Transfer		
5.1.5	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Restructure		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Consolidation		
5.1.6	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Discontinuation		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Suspension		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Creation		
5.1.7	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Transfer		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Consolidation		
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Center		
5.1.8	<input type="checkbox"/> New Institute		
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Bureau		
5.1.9	<input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Certificate		

*Requires "Section VI: Program Curriculum" of Abbreviated Template

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:

I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Signature

Date: April 23, 2014

Printed Name: Laurens H. Smith, Jr.

¹ CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

Program Request – Abbreviated Template
Utah State University
Department of English

**Change of Program Name from Online Master of Science in English with Specialization
in Technical Writing to a Master of Technical Communication.**

Section 1: Request

Currently, Utah State University is encouraging departments not to offer Plan C degrees with Master of Science or Master of Arts designations. The online Master of Science in English with specialization in Technical Writing has been a Plan C degree with no final project, paper, or thesis because such extended academic research projects are not useful to the lives or careers of the students, who are all working professionals and would universally prefer more class time. Attempting to design some sort of final experience, such as a thesis, only makes the program less relevant to the students and would deprive them of valuable classes. Therefore, the request is to change the degree name to reflect its existing professional nature. The specialization should be recognized as a professional degree with the name change to “Master of Technical Communication.” The new degree also uses the term “technical communication” instead of “technical writing” in order to better reflect the current professional and academic emphasis on both writing and communication skills in today’s digital world.

Section II: Need

This professional degree benefits students in that it caters exclusively to working professional writers, and offers a range of courses from applicable theory (e.g., editing, rhetorical theory) to highly technical skills (e.g., content management, user experience evaluation/design). A good number of the students find themselves promoted or moved to better and more interesting jobs because of this program. It also provides professional training opportunities for professionals in technical writing, which is a growth area.

According to the most current Bureau of Labor Statistics’ *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, “The employment of technical writers is projected to grow 15 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations. Employment growth will be driven by the continuing expansion of scientific and technical products and by growth in Web-based product support. Job opportunities, especially for applicants with technical skills, are expected to be good. . . .The median annual wage for technical writers was \$65,500 in May 2012.”

At the present time, no similar professional master’s degree programs offered online in the state of Utah. However, given the existing numbers of professional writers and the statistical projections of growth in the field, this program will continue to fill with interested professionals.

Section III: Institutional Impact

No impact will come from this change. The program is already in place; this is simply a name change.

Section IV: Finances

No additional costs will come from this change.

Section V: Program Curriculum

No changes will be made to the curriculum. The following table details the current curriculum, which will continue as is.

Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses—Section A		
ENGL 6400	Advanced Editing	3
ENGL 6410	Theory & Research in Professional Communication	3
	Sub-Total	6
Elective Courses—Section B Issues in Professional Communication		
ENGL 6420	Usability and Human Factors in Professional Communication	3
ENGL 6430	Publications Management	3
ENGL 6450	Reading Theory & Document Design	3
ENGL 6800	Theory and Practice of Online Education in Writing	3
ENGL 6830	Rhetorical Theory	3
ENGL 6890	Studies in Writing and Rhetoric (repeatable for up to 6 credits)	3-6
	Sub-Total	18-24
Elective Courses—Section C Specialized Publications		
ENGL 6460	Studies in Digital Media (repeatable for up to 12 credits)	3-12
ENGL 6470	Studies in Specialized Documents	3-12
Track/Options (if applicable)		
	Sub-Total	6-24
Students take core courses and select from Sections B & C to complete 33 hours.	Total Number of Credits	33

Program Schedule

The courses are offered during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. The program is designed so that students can complete it in two years.

Faculty

The following faculty from the Department of English will be available to instruct in this program:

Keith Grant-Davie, Associate Professor, PhD, Technical Communication Rhetoric
David Hailey, Associate Professor, PhD, Technical Communication Technologies
John McLaughlin, Associate Professor, PhD, Linguistics
Ryan Moeller, Associate Professor, PhD, Technical Communication Technologies and Rhetoric
Ron Shook, Associate Professor, PhD, Technical Communication Design
Rebecca Walton, Assistant Professor, PhD, Technical Communication Technologies and Rhetoric