**Science Communication**

This newly approved track gives students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of writing in a variety of scientific contexts and genres. Students will study and practice communication that targets both specialist and nonspecialist audiences.

Therefore, the minor will be of particular benefit to two groups of students: 1) STEM majors looking to improve communication skills before attending medical/graduate school or entering research positions; and 2) STEM and non-STEM majors seeking to incorporate scientific literacy into their various professions.

***What do students do in Science Communication minor courses?***

Students start with their own interest in particular scientific disciplines, subfields, and issues/concepts. They learn to write documents related to these interests for specific audiences and professional contexts.

The first minor course (Writing 159A) targets specialist scientific audiences. Students will write documents such as journal articles, technical reports, patents, funding proposals, lab reports, white papers, documentation, policy recommendations, and poster/slide presentations. Students will leave the course having begun a portfolio of work, including a substantial research project and/or proposal. This final project may be re-framed for a broader audience during the second capstone course, Writing 159B.

The second minor course ((Writing 159B) targets nonspecialist audiences, including the public, other STEM professionals, and collaborations with multiple stakeholders. Documents for nonspecialist audiences may include multimedia assignments such as websites, podcasts, and videos. Print writing assignments may include long-form journalism articles and shorter assignments such as articles summarizing scientific studies in lay terms, teaching demonstrations, and brochures written to lay audiences. Students will leave the course with an e-portfolio that builds on their work in Writing 159A and demonstrates their writing expertise in science communication.

***Where will students get internships for the Science Communication minor?***

The internship, formerly required, will be optional. Students may work with already existing internships or positions in research labs on campus. They will also have the opportunity to find new internships with local organizations, for example:

* Magazines and Newspapers, such as *The Independent* and *UCSB Current*.
* Businesses, such as Citrix Online and Deckers Outdoor.
* Environmental Organizations, such as National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), the Community Environmental Council, Tetra Tech, Green2Gold, Kids in Nature, The Center for Urban Agriculture
* Local Museums, such as Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the upcoming MOXI Children’s Museum.
* SciComm Non-Profits, including SciFund and Compass.

***Which courses are recommended for the Science Communication track?***

Depending on students’ own interest and passion, a wide variety of courses are appropriate prerequisites, including:

* 109ES Writing for Environmental Studies
* 109HP Writing for Health Professionals
* 109ST Writing for Science and Technology
* 105SW Science Writing for the Public
* 105M Multimedia Writing
* 105PD Writing for Public Discourse
* 105PS Writing for Public Speaking
* 105R Rhetoric and Writing
* 105S Writing about Sustainability
* 105C Creative Non-fiction

Any courses from the Writing 107 series, especially:

* 107T Technical Writing
* 107J Journalism and News Writing
* 107M Magazine Writing for Publication
* 107P Writing for Public Relations

For more information about the Science Communication minor track, please contact Dr. Janet Mizrahi, mizrahi@writing.ucsb.edu