

Unlocking Professional Potential with Utah Tech's TWDR [Technical Writing & Digital Rhetoric] Master's Degree

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Even as a successful engineer, entrepreneur and expert witness in the amusement ride industry, Troy Richardson's letters to fellow engineers regarding zipline safety issues fell on deaf ears. He quickly recognized his need to learn how to clearly articulate his 30 years' worth of knowledge. Determined to improve his communication skills, Richardson enrolled in the [Technical Writing & Digital Rhetoric master's program](#) at Utah Tech University.

After some time in Utah Tech's TWDR program, Richardson received several invitations to speak at the ASTM F24 Conference to discuss zipline incidents. "TWDR program has elevated my prose beyond my dreams! ... If nothing else, writing matters ... you need to get your point across quickly with concrete clarity the first time," Richardson said.

While multiple institutions in the region offer one or the other, Utah Tech is unique in offering the combination of both technical writing and digital rhetoric. Instead of focusing solely on professional writing for communication-based employment or correspondence specific to one technology, the TWDR degree is built to improve the thinking, writing, communicating and ethical skills of its students in any career field.

Utah TECH: "We see students from an English background, but also from engineering, the sciences and other humanities programs like history and psychology," program coordinator Dr. Joy McMurrin ...

Richardson plans to use the TWDR degree as a steppingstone to an eventual doctorate in engineering, and he's not alone. 2021 graduate Stacey Koller wasn't sure her undergraduate performance would qualify her for law school, so she earned her TWDR [to] prepare and compete. After completing the degree, she was accepted to every law school she applied to — more than 20 programs — and successfully negotiated significant tuition reductions at her current institution, Creighton University School of Law. 2023 grad Jesse Cowley progressed from farm hand to scriptwriter to instructional designer. He referred to the TWDR as "an option-increasing, door-opening kind of opportunity."