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## ENG 5960-600: Prof Writing Internship

Terri Fredrick  
*Eastern Illinois University*

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# English 5960: Graduate Internship in Professional Writing

Director: Dr. Terri Fredrick  
Office: Coleman Hall 3070  
Phone: (217) 714-6028 (cell)  
Email tafredrick@eiu.edu

## Course Goals and Objectives

Coursework can provide students with the framework necessary to communicate effectively in professional settings; when writing or editing in the workplace, however, the principles learned in classes must be adapted to fit the rhetorical situation (audience, purpose, and context). The internship in Professional Writing is designed to give you practical experience in creating communication that fits the specific needs of a company or organization. Through the course, you will also be given the opportunity to reflect on topics such as organizational culture, enculturation, effective workplace writing practices, collaboration, technology, and research in professional settings.

## Course Requirements

**Internship hours:** As part of the course, you are responsible for 150 hours at the organization or company where you have been placed. This breaks down to about 10 hours per week, but you and your internship supervisor may establish an alternate work schedule, if you choose.

**Meetings with director/other interns:** Several times during the semester, you will meet with me and the other interns for that semester. During those meetings, we will discuss your internship experiences as well as some brief assigned readings.

**Observation:** Once during the semester, the internship I will observe your work.

**Supervisor evaluations:** At midterm and again at the end of the semester, your internship supervisor will be asked to complete a brief evaluation of your work and professionalism.

**Writing assignments:** As part of the course, you will submit writing that demonstrates the professional writing you have done as part of your internship and your reflection on that work.

- *Discussion posts and reading responses* Each week (when we do not have a reading assignment, I will post a discussion question on WebCT. You can respond to that question and to other interns' posts. You will also be asked to read three articles and write a one-page response, reflecting on how issues from the article are reflected in your experiences at the internship. We will use those reflections as the basis for our group discussions.
- *Research on issues in Professional Writing:* Drawing on your experience in the internship, you will research through academic sources one issue. You will then write a brief report synthesizing the research and connecting it to your experience.

- *Portfolio*: At the end of the internship, you will create a portfolio of all the work that you have composed, revised, or edited (either individually or collaboratively).
- *Self-assessment*: You will write a two- to three-page single-spaced memo discussing the work included in your portfolio, focusing on the strengths, weaknesses, challenges, development, or possibilities for the future that the work demonstrates.

Note: This course is graded on a Credit/No Credit basis.