The demand for medical writing professionals is growing significantly. So, too is the supply of individuals with advanced biomedical and life science degrees looking for careers outside academia. Given these facts, an Advisory Board of seasoned medical writing professionals has guided the development of a Medical Writing Certificate program at the University of California, San Diego. The program is designed to provide graduates with the foundational knowledge and skills needed to work as a medical writer in the commercial sector, government agencies and/or academia. The certificate will equip scientists and others with a strong biomedical and/or life sciences background to write specifically for scientific audiences.

Certificate Benefits
- The certificate prepares students to secure well-paying positions as medical writers in four distinct specialty areas:
  - Continuing Medical Education materials
  - Scientific Grants
  - Regulatory Documentation
  - Journal Article and Publication Development
- Medical writing offers a rewarding and intellectually stimulating career, with six-figure salaries for senior writers
- Many medical writers manage their own freelance businesses

Scientific Medical Writing vs. Non-Scientific Medical Writing
The program is not designed for those intending to communicate scientific information to lay audiences, e.g., science journalism, marketing communications or patient communications. This program is designed to equip scientists and others with a strong biomedical and/or life sciences background to write for scientific audiences in peer-reviewed journals, regulatory documents, medical education materials and/or research grant proposals.

Who should take the certificate?
Accepted applicants will have graduate degrees in biomedical or life sciences, such as biology, chemistry, pharmacy, nursing, nutrition, medicine or public health. PhDs are particularly competitive for medical writing positions in the commercial sector and academic settings.

Program Details
- Number of courses: 5 core courses and 8 units of electives
- Total units: 22
- Estimated cost: $4,000 +/-
- Time to Complete: 12-18 months
- Delivery: fully online

Course Expectations
In order to receive your certificate, you must complete all of the required coursework with a B-/80% or higher.

Conditions for Admission
Successful applicants must have relevant educational background, and native-level fluency in English with the demonstrated ability to write clear, logical, and grammatically correct sentences as evidenced by the application, official transcripts and writing samples. Accepted applicants will have degrees in biomedical or life sciences, such as biology, chemistry, pharmacy, nursing, nutrition, or public health. It is anticipated that many will have advanced degrees, including PhDs. Candidates with PhDs are particularly competitive for medical writing positions in the commercial sector and academic settings.

Non-Native English speakers must provide proof of English language competency via either a score of 90 on the iBT (TOEFL) test or a 7.5 on the IELTS test.
Upon acceptance into the Medical Writing Certificate Program, all students must either take the following three courses or have taken appropriate equivalents within the past five years, earning a grade of B- or better:

- Medical Terminology: An Anatomy and Physiology Approach FPM-40172 (1.5 unit)
- CT: Practical Clinical Statistics for the Non-Statistician FPM-40233 (2 units)
- Grammar Lab WCWP-40234 (3 units)

All prerequisites must be completed in the Fall or Spring quarter in order to begin the certificate program in a timely manner. All three prerequisites are available online and can all be taken together in a single quarter.

Prerequisites can be waived for individuals whose work experience demonstrates foundational knowledge of these subjects. Applicants seeking this waiver must email their CV to s4griffith@ucsd.edu for determination in advance of their application.

The Medical Writing Certificate core classes begin during either the Winter or Summer quarters only. All required courses and electives must be completed before enrolling in the final class, Capstone Project. Students can choose to follow the Traditional Course Schedule (a track designed for working professionals who plan to take one to two courses per quarter, finishing the program in 18 months) or the Accelerated Course Schedule (the quickest possible track, 12 months). Apart from the specific quarter availability of particular courses, these schedules are flexible and can be rearranged to fit a student's personal needs.

### MEDICAL WRITING CERTIFICATE TRADITIONAL COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Quarter</th>
<th>2nd Quarter</th>
<th>3rd Quarter</th>
<th>4th Quarter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Elective</td>
<td>2 Electives</td>
<td>1 Capstone Project*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Quarter</td>
<td>2nd Quarter</td>
<td>3rd Quarter</td>
<td>4th Quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Elective</td>
<td>2 Electives</td>
<td>1 Capstone Project*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### MEDICAL WRITING CERTIFICATE ACCELERATED COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Quarter</th>
<th>2nd Quarter</th>
<th>3rd Quarter</th>
<th>4th Quarter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Elective</td>
<td>2 Electives</td>
<td>1 Capstone Project*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Electives available in the Fall or Spring quarters only:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective</th>
<th>Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CT: Medical Writing: Protocols, Reports, Summaries, and Submissions</strong></td>
<td>FPM-40188 (2 units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Good Documentation Practices</strong></td>
<td>BIOL-40201 (3 units)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Only available in Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Overview of the Drug Development Process</strong></td>
<td>BIOL-40015 (3 units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only available in Fall</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Electives available every quarter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CT: Drug Development Process</strong></td>
<td>FPM-40173 (3 units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CT: Understanding Oncology</strong></td>
<td>FPM-40493 (3 units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CT: Regulation of Drugs, Biologics, Devices, and Diagnostics</strong></td>
<td>FPM-40189 (3 units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CT: Science of Clinical Trials Design</strong></td>
<td>FPM-40205 (3 units)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Capstone Projects* available in the Fall or Spring quarters only (PICK ONE):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capstone Project</th>
<th>Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capstone: Journal Article and Publication Development</strong></td>
<td>FPM-40630 (4 units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capstone: Medical Education Materials</strong></td>
<td>FPM-40627 (4 units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capstone: Regulatory Writing</strong></td>
<td>FPM-40628 (4 units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capstone: Scientific Grants</strong></td>
<td>FPM-40629 (4 units)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*To be eligible to take this course, you must have completed all of the other courses in the Medical Writing program with a B-/80% or higher. You must select from one of the four areas of specialization to fulfill this final required component of the certificate.

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For schedule planning help, please contact us!
Healthcare & Behavioral Sciences
Phone: (858) 534-9263
Email: s4griffith@ucsd.edu
Certificate Requirements
You are expected to complete the minimum certificate requirements, i.e., all approved required courses and the minimum number of required elective units, in effect at the time of registration regardless of any requirement changes at a later date. Prerequisite courses are not considered part of the minimum credit unit requirements of a certificate. All certificate courses must be enrolled in for credit (with a letter grade or pass/no pass grading option) and, unless the certificate program states otherwise, with a passing grade of at least a C- or better to earn the certificate.

While all courses must be successfully completed with a passing grade, the Extension academic department responsible for the certificate has the discretion to elevate the minimum grade you must earn and/or specify that courses (elective and/or required) be taken for a letter grade. A third party, e.g., employer, Workforce Partnership, credentialing authority, also has the right to increase the minimum certificate requirements by increasing the minimum acceptable grade and time to complete the certificate program. In those cases, the minimum certificate requirements, as specified by the third party, supersede the above.

Transfer Credits
In order to receive a certificate at UC San Diego Extension, you must fulfill all minimum unit requirements of a certificate with transcripted, credit-bearing coursework from an accredited institution. The number of units that can be transferred, however, varies depending on where the academic credit was received. Non-transcripted continuing education courses or courses from a non-accredited institution are not accepted for transfer.

Units of courses completed at educational institutions operating on the semester system should be converted to a value consistent with the quarter system, i.e., one semester unit is equivalent to two-thirds of a quarter unit. The number of units of the course completed outside of Extension must be at least equal to the unit value of the certificate course you are petitioning to transfer. Similarly, the number of units that can be transferred is determined by the number of units associated with the Extension certificate course and not the unit value granted elsewhere.

If you have successfully completed comparable courses at another accredited college or university within five years certificate coursework began at UC San Diego Extension, and you earned at least a "C-", in each, you may petition to transfer up to a third of the certificate program units, not to exceed two courses for professional certificates and one course for specialized certificates. If you have successfully completed courses at a UC campus within five years certificate coursework began at UC San Diego Extension, you may petition to transfer up to half of the units required for a certificate program. To request transfer credit, please submit a written petition, including an official transcript and course descriptions (with syllabus) to the academic department listed in the certificate description for consideration.

Course Substitutions
Only approved courses count toward your certificate program. Due to the post-baccalaureate level of Extension coursework and the intent of many certificate program students to further specialize and develop their current careers, you may have acquired industry knowledge outside of the classroom. If you can demonstrate mastery of the knowledge imparted in a required certificate course through personal or professional experiences, you may petition to substitute a course. In that case, you may have the option to take another Extension course as determined by the academic department in lieu of the required course. You may waive the course requirement but not the unit requirement. Because of the curricular importance of required certificate coursework, you can only petition to substitute up to half the total required course units. To request a substitution, please submit a written petition, including evidence of your knowledge, to the academic department listed in the certificate description for consideration.

Certificate Completion
Once all certificate requirements have been successfully completed, please request a certificate audit through the student portal, My Extension, at myextension.ucsd.edu. Once you have logged in to My Extension, go to the "My Courses" tab and click on the program under "My Certificate Programs". From there, click on "Request Certificate Audit" and complete the form.