

The New STC Academic Programs Database

By SALLY HENSCH, *Member, Academic Liaison Committee*

Perhaps you are interested in continuing your education and need help finding the right program of study. Or maybe you are a member of an STC community seeking involvement with student organizations for events and scholarship programs. Or perhaps you are an educator seeking research partners in nearby universities. Whatever your purpose, if you need to find information about university technical communication programs, the new STC Academic Programs Database (www.stc.org/academic/index.aspx) can make your search much easier.

In the autumn of 2006, the STC Academic Liaison Committee and the STC office staff undertook the task of redesigning the Academic Programs Database, a database of institutions offering programs of study in technical

communication. The redesigned database offers much more information than the previous version. Expanded search options allow users to narrow their searches by location, type of program, and method of course delivery. Also, the listings in the database are generated dynamically, and all updates appear immediately.

The new database was completed in late August 2007. The STC office e-mailed announcements to academic program directors; members of the STC Academic Community; technical communication mailing lists, organizations, and newsletters; and programs with records in the previous database. In response, more than 110 institutions from eight countries had entered records into the database as of mid-October 2007.

Information on Programs of Study

The Academic Programs Database contains information on programs of study that many STC members seek. Career advancement through academic programs is always a hot topic among STC members. Practicing professionals seeking information and advice on continuing their education can supplement their knowledge by searching in the new database.

Online Programs


To date, thirty-one institutions have created records for forty-one online programs. Examples of online programs include noncredit courses, undergraduate or graduate certificates, graduate diplomas, and bachelors, masters, and even doctor of philosophy degrees. The database contains information about online programs in several topic areas.

For STC Communities

The Academic Programs Database provides needed contact information for STC communities seeking involvement with student organizations. The information in the database might also help communities seeking recognition through the Community Achievement Awards (CAA). In past years, the activities necessary for a Community of Distinction award in the CAA included encouraging student participation in community events and sponsoring events related to technical communication at local colleges. The Academic Programs Database provides contact information that can help chapters compete for these awards.

Contacting Interns or Research Partners

Members in industry who are seeking interns or research partners can use the database to find up-to-date contact information on the academic community.

Whether you seek to continue your education or to make contact with academic program directors, you will find that a visit to the new STC Academic Programs Database provides an interesting, informative snapshot of current programs in technical communication. 



STC's newest addition to its publications is the monthly e-newsletter, *News & Notes*.

Stay in the loop with technology updates and industry news.

See what members have said about *News & Notes*:



"Just enough timely information to be usable and digestible."- *Deb*

Lockwood, STC Senior Member

"It was quite interesting, and worth spending time reading."- *Salan Sinclair, STC*

Senior Member

"The content of the links is much broader and more business-mainstream and 'outside of STC' (an important change of direction)." - *Vici Koster-Lenhardt, STC Associate Fellow*