

SUMMER SESSION SOLUTION: INTRODUCING SUMMER GRADUATE COURSES AT UNT



The Department of Technical Communication at UNT should offer graduate-level courses for students in the summer semesters.

STUDENT ISSUE



At the end of the spring semester of 2024, I wanted to maintain my momentum in the UNT Technical Communication (TECM) graduate certificate program, but I was surprised to find that no graduate-level TECM courses were offered in the summer semesters. The Department of Technical Communication could:

- Enhance student flexibility
- Ensure faster degree completion
- Enhance program competitiveness

by introducing core graduate-level courses available during summer semesters.

SOLUTION



- Offer one or two core courses or high-demand electives during summer 2025 as a pilot program
- Course offerings remain in the online format already established by TECM
- Faculty involvement encouraged by offering incentives for teaching summer courses

POTENTIAL COSTS AND CHALLENGES



<u>Costs</u>	<u>Challenges</u>
Faculty compensation Administrative and support staff costs Student services and support	Faculty availability Unknown student enrollment Course content

<p>costs Marketing costs</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cost Mitigation</u></p> <p>Reallocate funds Grants and outside funding Tuition adjustment</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Challenge Mitigation</u></p> <p>Offer competitive pay Offer research grants Offer reduced teaching loads in fall/spring semesters Use adjunct faculty/graduate assistants Student surveys Modify current course structure</p>
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RATIONALE



Reasons for implementing summer graduate-level courses for Technical Communication are to satisfy student demand, position the program favorably for potential students, and to help grow enrollment and revenue.

CALL TO ACTION



I kindly request the Department of Technical Communication to consider this proposal to offer 8-week term courses during the summer session and initiate a pilot program for the upcoming summer term. I propose the following next steps:

1. **Schedule a Meeting** within the next 2 weeks with department leadership to discuss feasibility and possible implementation of this proposal.
2. **Form a Working Group** to evaluate the logistics, costs, and resources needed to offer summer courses and to identify which courses could be included in a pilot program.
3. **Gather Student Input** from current and prospective students to gauge interest and determine which courses would be most beneficial to offer during the summer.

By taking these steps, the department can make a well-informed decision about expanding the summer course offerings and better meet the needs of our diverse and dynamic student body. I am excited about the potential of this initiative and am willing to support the process in any way I can.