

# Meetings at a Glance

## Education Recap


— by *Dianne Moscrip, Staff Writer*

**A**t the March 18 meeting, representatives from Douglas College, SFU, and UBC offered overviews on their technical communication programs.

**Douglas College** offers the Print Futures program, which is a two-year, 60-credit diploma program available to only 30 students per year. The Print Futures program is not specifically designed for technical communicators. It is more of a generalist program offering courses in research, writing, editing, document design, and so on. Individual courses may be available, if space allows, but the program gives priority to full-time students. As an added bonus, course prices are lower than their university counterparts—in the low \$200 range. The entire program costs around \$5,000 for 21 courses, and students are encouraged to apply for scholarships and bursaries. Refer to their Web site at [www.douglas.bc.ca](http://www.douglas.bc.ca) for more information.

**SFU**, by comparison, offers a certificate in Business Writing, Public Relations, and Marketing Communication. This is a non-credit, part-time program with many evening classes, which fits for working students. The program, which was originally designed with assistance from the STC Advisory Committee, has been operating for nine years. Students earn certificates upon completion of nine courses and one elective, and the program usually takes 18 to 24

months to complete. At the very least, course participation offers networking opportunities with instructors—often STC members—and colleagues. Course lengths range from one day to 30 hours, and are offered at the Harbour Centre campus. The minimum number of course hours required before graduating is 156.5. The program also sends out job postings for graduates subscribed to an opt-in email list.

**UBC Continuing Studies** offers a certificate program in Advanced Technical Communication. Courses are suited to professionals already working in their field interested in improving their current skill-set. Originally, the course was called Information Design and Development. It has now blossomed into different streams of education, one of which is the Advanced Technical Communication certificate. Prices have been reduced, and courses are now offered on a part-time, evening-only basis. Classes usually run three hours for 4 to 6 weeks at either the UBC campus or new Robson Square campus. Course prices are \$450 and up. 

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