Carleigh Davis She/Her
Technical Writer

Professor Davis Leaves Academia for Industry,

Becomes a *Technical Writer*

After nearly seven years of teaching at Missouri S&T, Dr. Carleigh Davis, associate professor of technical communication, left the university in May 2025 to take a position as a technical writer with 21CS, a software development firm based in Morehead City, North Carolina.

Davis joined Missouri S&T in August 2018 after earning her Ph.D. in Rhetoric, Writing, and Professional Communication from East Carolina University. In 2024, she was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure and began serving as Assistant Department Chair for Undergraduate Studies. During her time at S&T, she also supervised graduate teaching assistants, helping to train and mentor a new generation of instructors

Davis taught a variety of courses for the department, including Writing for Social Media, Project Management in Technical Communication, Social Movements Online, and Advanced Business Writing. Colleagues and students alike appreciated her commitment to creating courses that reflect real-world industry expectations and provide students with practical, career-ready experience.

Former student Iveren Akula (MS, 2023) credited Davis's section of Theoretical Approaches to Technical Communication as a formative experience in her graduate studies. "That class challenged and stretched me in the best possible ways," she said. "Many of the ideas I first explored in Dr. Davis's class have since grown into conference presentations. Her mentorship helped me cultivate the habits of care and rigor I bring to my work today."

Akula also noted Davis's influence as a teaching supervisor. "She modeled professionalism and reflective teaching in ways that still guide me," Akula said. "Dr. Davis set a high standard, one that continues to influence how I think and teach."

Saber Mirzaei Ahandani (MS, 2024) taught as a GTA under Davis's supervision. She was also his instructor in Research Methods in Technical Communication during his first semester. "At the beginning, I knew nothing about it, but I gained a lot in the end," he recalled. "Her email at the end of the course, where she mentioned being very impressed by my final proposal and how much progress I had made, has stayed with me as a source of encouragement."

Rachael Jeffries (BS, 2025) reflected on Davis's advocacy for her students. "One of my favorite moments with Dr. Davis was when another student was presenting work I had done as if it were theirs," Jeffries said. "I avoided advocating for myself, but Dr. Davis did not. She created space for me, prompting me to lead the conversation. She gave me hope and confidence during a time when I had little."

These comments reflect the impact that Davis had as a teacher and mentor. If one day she does return to university teaching, she will be even more valuable because of her industry experience and no doubt just as effective at building relationships with students and colleagues as she was at S&T.