



HOW I DISCOVERED TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

AN UNEXPECTED MAJOR CHANGE LED TO THE PERFECT ACADEMIC FIT

My name is Xavier Leggett, and I'm a junior technical communication major at Missouri University of Science and Technology. When I first came to S&T, I had no idea that I'd end up in this major or that it would turn out to be the best academic decision I've ever made. My time here has been full of unexpected turns, lessons learned, and growth, shaping who I am as a student and who I want to be in the future.

Growing up in St. Robert, I attended Maranatha Baptist Academy, where I played soccer for five years and basketball for six. Sports were a huge part of my early life. Being part of a team taught me how to communicate, stay disciplined, and work toward long-term goals. Those lessons have carried over into college. They taught me that effort and consistency often matter more than talent, and that mindset has influenced how I meet challenges in my academic and personal life.

Coming to Missouri S&T was an easy decision for me. It's close to home, which means I can visit my family often. Coming from an army family, I've always valued staying connected to my roots, and I didn't want to go to school too far away. Initially, I was a civil engineering major because, like many people, I thought engineering was the best path for someone

interested in technology and problem-solving. But after taking a mechanical engineering course, along with a college math course, I quickly realized that engineering wasn't for me. I enjoyed learning how things worked, but the technical calculations and repetitive problem sets didn't inspire me.

During that period of questioning, I started exploring other majors and came across technical communication. At first, I didn't know exactly what it was. But after learning that it blended writing, design, and technology areas, I decided to give it a try. Once I took my first tech com course, I knew I had found the right fit. The major allows me to use creativity while still being technical and detail oriented. I get to combine writing, visual design, and problem-solving, which makes the work feel both challenging and enjoyable.

Over the past few semesters, I've taken several tech com courses that have helped me grow my skills and confidence. One of the most memorable was a class where I learned to use Adobe InDesign. I enjoyed getting hands-on experience designing layouts and learning how to communicate ideas visually. I realized that the way information looks can be just as important as the words themselves. Another class

I'm taking right now is Game Studies, one of my favorites. In it, we analyze different types of games, how they tell stories, represent culture, and engage players. It's fascinating to see how communication theories can apply even to video games.

Outside of my major, I also took a leadership course that ended up being one of the most impactful learning experiences I've had so far. It helped me think about how I present myself, how I work with others, and how leadership isn't just about taking charge; it's about listening, understanding, and helping people reach their potential.

When I'm not in class, I try to stay active and balanced. With the little free time I have, I love going to the gym and playing basketball with friends.

Sports continue to be my outlet for stress and my way of connecting with others on campus. During the week, I live on campus, which keeps me close to classes and friends, but on the weekends, I usually head home to spend time with my family. That time at home helps me recharge and stay grounded.

As for what comes next, I'm still figuring that out, but I know I have options. After graduation, I'm debating whether to go active or reserve in the Army, following in my family's footsteps. I've always admired the discipline and leadership that come with serving, but I'm also open to using my tech com degree in a civilian career, maybe in technical writing, content design, or user experience communication.

What I love about this field is that it gives me flexibility. Whether I'm working on military documentation, developing game-related content, or designing technical materials for a company, I'll be using the same core skills: communication, clarity, and creativity.

Looking back, I never would have guessed that switching my major would lead me to something that fits me so well. Missouri S&T has given me a place to explore what I'm passionate about and to build a foundation for the future I want. Being a tech com major has taught me that communication is more than words; it's connection, problem-solving, and storytelling all at once. That's exactly the kind of impact I hope to make wherever life takes me next.

