

**COLLEGE OF TEXTILES**  
**Writing and Speaking Outcomes**

**Students should demonstrate the ability to:**

**think synthetically.**

- to show that they are capable of summarizing information effectively, that is, distilling ideas and concepts, filtering out what is and what is not important, and presenting the summary in a way that is appropriate to the audience and genre. Students should demonstrate this ability in both of the two major written forms of summaries--the abstract and the executive summary--as well as in speaking.
- to show that they can take notes efficiently, that is, they can synthesize material and organize it in such a way that it is useful for themselves and others.

**think critically.**

- to show that they can identify problems and ambiguities in written and oral presentations, point out those difficulties, and be able to ask pertinent and probing questions that could lead to the clarification of the problems and ambiguities.
- to show that they can critique a report, journal article, a competitor's advertisement, or the material presented in an oral presentation.
- to show that they can evaluate the work of others fairly and helpfully.

**explain technical material.**

- to show that they can describe technical and/or scientific research in a way that is comprehensible to people who are not familiar with it. Students should be able to do this in both speaking and writing.
- to show that they can explain technical material in an intelligible way to people in a job interview situation. To do this well, they need to be able to demonstrate not only that they know the material but also that they can express it clearly and succinctly.
- to show that they can respond clearly and appropriately to questions before an audience. Students ought to be able to demonstrate that they can think on their feet and respond in a professional way to questions that require them to explain, elaborate, and/or defend their research.

**work effectively in groups.**

- to show that they can manage group work successfully. Students should demonstrate that they have a conceptual understanding of group dynamics and that they have a good grasp of strategies for making groups work efficiently and for dealing productively with conflict.

**communicate academic material in way that exhibits mastery over the forms of thinking that define the discipline.**

- to show that they can present technical and/or scientific material in such a way that students demonstrate command both of the material and of the forms of communication they use. Academic forms that may be appropriate are: term papers, technical reports, summaries of lectures and reading assignments, oral presentations of design projects, posters, home pages, and multi-media presentations.

- to show that they can write (or present orally) effective lab reports. To be effective, a lab report must exhibit not only students' firm grasp of the lab but also their understanding of the implications of the lab, what it means, what they have learned from it.
- to show that they can respond clearly and appropriately to essay questions. Students must be able to express their thoughts in a lucid and well organized fashion. They must be able to say what they mean.

**communicate effectively in the professional discourses of the field.**

- to show that they can produce various kinds of professional discourses in such a way that the students manifest both a conceptual understanding of and a technical competence in the discourses: trip report; technical report; spy report (evaluating a competitor); proposal (persuading someone to provide money for a project); brief reports of what happened in the factory last week to be presented in group meetings; directions or procedures (explaining how to perform a job); ASTM test methods; research and development reports (consulting with customers and being able to reduce research to a relatively simple and clear idea); written reports based on tests of materials (filling out a form that consists of summary and interpretation in a limited space, managing data and interpretation).