

## Technical Writing Examination

Aero-Astro requires that all entering graduate students, including those who completed their bachelor's degree at MIT, demonstrate satisfactory English writing ability by taking the Technical Writing Examination administered by the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies. The exam is administered once each year during the first week of fall term. Students matriculating in the spring or summer terms take the exam the first fall term that they are in Aero-Astro.

The exam is structured into five sections and includes:

- **Sentence selection:** Select from four choices, the sentence that most logically, clearly, and precisely conveys the meaning of the subject.
- **Grammar and Usage:** Select from four choices, the changes necessary to improve underlined portions of a sample sentence.
- **Punctuation and Mechanics:** Select from four choices, recommended punctuation changes within a sentence.
- **Writing Exercise:** Write a 350 -word essay on a topic provided to test ability to express basic technical concepts in clear, well-worded prose.
- **Abstract Writing:** Write an abstract for the essay.  
Students who score less than 80 percent on the examination must complete remedial training by the end of the first Independent Activities Period following graduate program registration.

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