



# Technical Writers

## WHAT THEY DO

Writes technical materials, such as equipment manuals, appendices, or operating and maintenance instructions. May assist in layout work. Belongs to the Arts, Audio-Video Technology and Communications cluster and Journalism and Broadcasting pathway.



## IS THIS FOR YOU?

**Work Interests** are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model) by people who tend to succeed in this career:

- **Artistic**— You are an "creator". You enjoy things like art, music, and books, and express your feelings easily. You don't like rigid rules and structure.
- **Investigative** — You are a "thinker". When you have a problem, you like to analyze it and look at different ways to solve it. You like to work by yourself, and you don't like explaining your ideas to other people.

**Work Values** are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

- **Achievement** — It's very important to you that your work allows you to use your best abilities. You want to see the results of your work and get a feeling of accomplishment.
- **Working Conditions**—It's very important to you that your work satisfies your needs in areas like salary, job security and your working style preferences, such as working alone, staying busy all the time or having variety in your work tasks.
- **Independence** — It's very important to you that your work allows you to make decisions on your own. You want to try out your own ideas and work with little supervision.

**Aptitudes** reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in the career:

- **Verbal Aptitude**
- **Numerical Aptitude**

## SKILLS YOU NEED

### Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Writing
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Active Learning
- Monitoring

### Transferable Skills (applicable in other careers): High level

- Explaining diagrams
- Following manufacturing blueprints and diagrams
- Preparing technical or research reports
- Reviewing and evaluating educational materials
- Writing ideas

### Workplace Skills:

#### Medium level

- Coordination
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Time Management

Additional skills for this occupation may be found at <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/career-exploration-resources>

## ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2012 Estimated Employment	2022 Projected Employment	2012-22 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total, All Occupations	1,758,205	1,955,480	197,275	1.1	61,665
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	26,560	29,770	3,210	1.2	970
Technical Writers	480	555	70	1.5	20

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

## 2015 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Average Wage	Average Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Experienced Wage	Experienced Salary
Total, All Occupations	19.77	41,122	9.55	19,858	24.88	51,755
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	18.07	37,591	8.90	18,507	22.66	47,133
Technical Writers	24.30	50,546	18.08	37,599	27.41	57,019

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education	Work Experience	Job Training
Bachelor's Degree	1 to 5 years	Short-Term On-The-Job

Employers generally prefer candidates with a bachelor's degree in journalism, English, or communications. Many technical writing jobs require both a degree and knowledge in a specialized field, such as engineering, computer science, or medicine. Web design experience also is helpful because of the growing use of online technical documentation.

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0> and <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

## NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	5
Locating Information	6
Reading for Information	5

This ACT-developed credential demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6).

Source: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/analysis/occup.html>

## ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

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## PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

### (Where are Technical Writers Employed?)

Machinery Mfg  
Professional, Scientific, and Technical  
Self Employed

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>