Technical Writers

OVERVIEW

Write technical materials, such as equipment manuals, appendices, or operating and maintenance instructions. May assist in layout work. Belongs to the Scientific Research/Engineering career cluster and Engineering and Technology career pathway.

DOES THIS DESCRIBE YOU?

Work Interests involve descriptive categories (compatible with Holland's Model) attributed to success in this career:

- **Artistic**—Involves working with forms, designs, and patterns requiring self-expression without clear set of rules.
- **Investigative**—Involves working with ideas requiring an extensive amount of research, fact finding, problem solving, and thought analysis.
- **Conventional**—Enjoy following set procedures and routines developed through higher authority includes working with data and details more than with ideas.

Work Styles depict worker characteristics conducive for this career:

- **Attention to Detail**
- **Dependability**
- **Integrity**
- **Cooperation**
- **Independence**

Work Values are associated with aspects of work that provide satisfaction in this career:

- **Achievement**—Sense of accomplishment; results oriented.
- **Working Conditions**—Job security; good working conditions.
- **Independence**—Autonomy; working on your own.

Aptitudes reflect an ability to acquire skills and knowledge for success in this career:

- **Written Expression**
- **Written Comprehension**
- **Near Vision**
- **Oral Comprehension**
- **Deductive Reasoning**

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

Basic Skills:

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

Technology Skills:

- Data Base User Interface and Query Software
- Desktop Publishing Software
- Development Environment Software
- Graphics or Photo Imaging Software
- Web Platform Development Software

Knowledge:

- English Language
- Computers and Electronics
- Clerical
- Administration and Management
- Communications and Media

ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2014 Estimated Employment	2024 Projected Employment	2014-24 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total, All Occupations	1,795,100	1,949,240	154,140	0.9	58,145
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	26,770	28,250	1,475	0.6	855
Technical Writers	510	585	80	1.6	20

Source: https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections

2017 WAGE & SALARY ($)

Occupational Title	Mean Wage	Mean Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Exp Wage	Exp Salary
Total All Occupations	20.93	43,539	10.09	20,991	26.35	54,813
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	18.63	38,758	9.31	19,370	23.29	48,452
Technical Writers	25.50	53,042	18.30	38,067	29.10	60,530

Source: https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-employment-and-wages

EDUCATION & TRAINING

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

Many employers desire technical writers possessing a bachelor's degree in a related field, such as English, journalism, or communications along with proficiency and/or knowledge in a specialized field such as engineering, science, or medicine.

Sources: https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections and https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_education_training_system.htm ,

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level	Minimum Skill Level	Maximum Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	3	3	4
Locating Information	4	3	6
Reading for Information	5	5	5
Applied Technology	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Business Writing	4	4	5
Workplace Observation	2	2	2
Listening for Understanding	2	2	2

An ACT assessment-based credential issued in determining essential work skills needed for employment success across industries and occupations. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6 & higher). Source: http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/workkeys-for-employers/assessments.html

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

(Where are Technical Writers Employed?)

Machinery Mfg
Professional, Scientific, and Technical
Self Employed

Source: https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections

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