

Technical Writers

SOC: 27-3042 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$91,670

Median Salary

56,400

Employment

+1.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 15.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

7.0/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.0/10	Investigative	5.6/10
Artistic	9.6/10	Social	7.4/10
Enterprising	6.2/10	Conventional	4.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Critical-thinking skills, Detail oriented, Imagination, Teamwork, Technical skills, Writing skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Technical Writers create, edit, and maintain **documents that explain complex information clearly and effectively**. They produce manuals, guides, instructions, and online content for technical products, services, or processes. Their work is critical in technology, engineering, healthcare, and business communication.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy writing, organizing information, and translating technical concepts for diverse audiences.

What Do Technical Writers Do?

These professionals develop clear, concise, and accurate documentation for products, processes, or systems.

Common responsibilities include:

- Researching technical information from subject matter experts
- Writing manuals, user guides, reports, and online help content
- Editing and revising technical documents for clarity, accuracy, and style
- Organizing content logically for different audiences
- Collaborating with engineers, developers, or other professionals
- Ensuring compliance with industry standards and regulatory requirements
- Updating documentation as products or processes change

Key Areas of Technical Writing

Technical writers may specialize in particular industries or types of documentation:

- Software and Technology Documentation: User manuals, help guides, and online support materials
- Engineering and Scientific Writing: Manuals, procedures, and research reports
- Medical and Healthcare Writing: Clinical documentation, patient information, and regulatory submissions
- Instructional and Training Materials: Guides, tutorials, and e-learning content
- Compliance and Regulatory Documentation: Policies, safety manuals, and standard operating procedures

Skills and Abilities Needed

Technical writers combine writing, research, and communication skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and practical experience:

- Bachelor's Degree (minimum): English, technical communication, journalism, or related field
- Internships or Practical Experience: Writing for technical projects, software, or engineering teams
- Portfolio Development: Demonstrating ability to create clear, professional documentation
- Professional Development: Training in industry-specific writing standards, tools, and software
- Continuous Learning: Staying current on technology, products, and communication trends

Where Do Technical Writers Work?

They are employed in organizations that produce technical products, services, or processes:

- Software and Technology Companies
- Engineering and Manufacturing Firms
- Healthcare and Medical Organizations
- Government Agencies and Research Institutions

- Publishing and Documentation Services

Work environments include offices, remote work settings, laboratories, and production sites.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires strong writing, research, and technical comprehension. Technical writers must produce accurate, clear documentation while collaborating with experts and meeting deadlines.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy writing and translating technical information
- Are detail-oriented and organized
- Can collaborate effectively with professionals across disciplines
- Have analytical and problem-solving skills
- Want a career supporting communication and knowledge transfer in technical fields

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in writing, technical communication, or related fields
- Develop research and analytical skills
- Gain experience with technical projects or documentation
- Build a professional portfolio of writing samples
- Learn software tools for document creation and editing

Technical writers create clear and accurate documentation that communicates complex information, supporting users, organizations, and the effective use of products and systems.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/technical-writers.htm>