

Career Spotlight

Technical Writer

A technical writer is a professional writer who designs, writes, creates, maintains, and updates technical documentation—including online help, user guides, white papers, design specifications, system manuals, and other documents. A technical writer produces technical documentation for technical, business, and consumer audiences.



EDUCATION

A college degree generally is required for a position as a writer. Good facility with computers and communications equipment is necessary in order to stay in touch with sources, editors, and other writers while working on assignments, whether from home, an office, or while traveling. Increasingly, technical writing requires a degree in, or some knowledge about, a specialized field, for example, mathematics, engineering, or business.

WHEN MATH IS USED

When a technical writer specializes in technical writing for math, they will use their math skills every day. Technical writers use their mathematical knowledge to design, write, create, and maintain technical documentation.

POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

Technical writers work for book, magazine, or newspaper publishers, or they may be employed in other industries. Technical writers who work for the federal government write the pamphlets that are published by the Government Printing Office. These pamphlets cover many different fields, including the activities of various government agencies and developments in research in areas such as medicine, education, agriculture, and aerospace. Some technical writers work for colleges or universities or for the publishers of professional journals. Others work for advertising agencies.

FACTS

Many technical writers work as freelance writers. Freelance writers are self-employed and sell their work to publishers, corporations, manufacturing firms, and advertising agencies. They are paid by the job or by the hour. Sometimes they are hired to do specific jobs such as writing about a new high-tech product or advancement.

CITATIONS

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technical_writer
<http://careers.stateuniversity.com/pages/139/Technical-Writer.html>
<http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273042.htm>
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/technical-writers.htm#tab-2>

MATH REQUIRED

- College Algebra
- Trigonometry
- Geometry
- Calculus I, II, III
- Linear Algebra
- Differential Equations

Low-end Salary: \$41,610/yr
Median Salary: \$70,240/yr
High-end Salary: \$112,220/yr