



Technical Communication (0607) – Labor Market Information
Technical Writing Certificate
August 2018
Prepared by the South Central Coast Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research

Labor Market Information

This report was compiled by the South Central Coast¹ Center of Excellence to provide regional labor market data for the proposed certificate, Technical Writing, within the field of Technical Communication. This report can help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from programs of study that align with this occupation group.

Overview

- The number jobs related to Technical Communication is expected to remain steady over the next five years.
- Minimal growth is expected for Technical Writers (4%).
- In 2016 there was one regional institution, California State University Channel Islands, with a program related to Technical Communication with 1 annual completion (Postbaccalaureate certificate).
- There are 311 annual openings for Technical Writers.
- Typical entry level education for Technical Writers is a Bachelor's Degree.
- The median annual wage after program completion is \$40,817.
- 59% of students are employed after a year.

¹ The South Central Coast Region consists of San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, Ventura County, and the following cities from North Los Angeles County: Canyon Country, Castaic, Lake Hughes, Lancaster, Littlerock, Llano, Newhall, Palmdale, Pearblossom, Santa Clarita, Stevenson Ranch, and Valencia.

Occupation Codes and Descriptions

Currently, there is one occupation in the standard occupational classification (SOC) system that is related to the proposed certificate (Technical Writing) under Technical Communication. The occupation title and description, as well as reported job titles, are included in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1 – Occupation, description, and sample job titles

SOC Code	Title	Description	Sample of Reported Job Titles
27-3042	Technical Writers	Write technical materials, such as equipment manuals, appendices, or operating and maintenance instructions. May assist in layout work.	Documentation Designer, Documentation Specialist, Engineering Writer, Expert Medical Writer, Information Developer, Narrative Writer, Requirements Analyst, Senior Technical Writer, Technical Communicator, Technical Writer

Source: O*NET Online

Current and Future Employment

In the South Central Coast region, the number jobs related to Technical Communication is expected to remain steady over the next five years. Exhibit 2 contains detailed employment projections data for the identified occupation.

Exhibit 2 – Five-year projections for Technical Communication in the South Central Coast region

SOC	Occupation	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2017-2022 Change	2017-2022% Change	Annual Openings
27-3042	Technical Writers	309	321	12	4%	32

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

*Total Jobs (2017), Average Change (2017-2022), and Median Hourly Earnings for Selected Occupations

1,398 Jobs (2017) 21% above National average	+5.2% % Change (2017-2022) Nation: +3.6%	\$26.29/hr Median Hourly Earnings Nation: \$26.35/hr
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Earnings

Exhibit 3 contains hourly wages and annual average earnings. Entry-level hourly earnings is represented by the 10th percentile of wages, median hourly earnings is represented by the 50th percentile of wages, and experienced hourly earnings is represented by the 90th percentile of wages, demonstrating various levels of employment.

Exhibit 3 – Earnings for Technical Communications related occupations in the South Central Coast region

SOC	Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
27-3042	Technical Writers	\$28.57	\$37.14	\$47.76

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

Employer Job Postings

In this research brief, real-time labor market information is used to provide a more nuanced view of the current job market, as it captures job advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study. Employer job postings are consulted to understand who is employing those in the Technical Communication field, and what they are looking for in potential candidates.

Top Occupations

In 2017, there were 91 employer postings for the occupation selected for Technical Communication.

Exhibit 4 – Job Postings, Full Year 2017 (n=91)

SOC Code	Occupation	Job Postings, Full Year 2017
27-3042	Technical Writers	91

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Top Titles

The top job titles for employers posting ads for the occupation related to Technical Communications are listed in Exhibit 5. Technical Writers is mentioned as the job title in 80% of all relevant job postings.

Exhibit 5 –Job titles (n=91)

Title	Job Postings, Full Year 2017
Technical Writers	73
Specialists, Technical Writing/Editing	5

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Top Employers

Exhibit 6 lists the top two employers hiring professionals in the Technical Communication field. Top employers posting job ads included Ares Corporation and Microsemi Corporation. The top worksite cities in the region for these occupations were Thousand Oaks, Santa Barbara, Camarillo, Port Hueneme, and Santa Clarita.

Exhibit 6 – Top employers (n=91)

Employer	Job Postings, Full Year 2017
Ares Corporation	3
Microsemi Corporation	3

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Top Job Skills

Technical Writing/Editing is the most sought after skill for employers hiring for Technical Communication. The other top job-specific skills desired by employers relate to project management and use of Adobe software.

Exhibit 7 – Top Job skills (n=91)

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2017
Technical Writing/Editing	81
Adobe Acrobat	13
Project Management	13
Adobe Photoshop	12
Adobe Indesign	11

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Industry Concentration

Technical Communication jobs in the South Central Coast region are most often found in the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry. Exhibit 9 shows the industries where most Technical Communication workers are being recruited.

Exhibit 9 – Industries employing the most technical writers, 2017 (n=67)

Industry	Occupation Group Jobs in Industry	% of Occupation Group in Industry
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	26	39%
Manufacturing	14	21%
Information	8	12%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	4	6%

Education and Training

Exhibit 10 shows the typical entry-level education requirement for the occupation of interest, along with the typical on-the-job training.

Exhibit 10 – Education and training requirements (2016)

SOC	Occupation	Typical entry-level education	Typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency in the occupation
27-3042	Technical Writers	Bachelor's Degree	Short-term on-the-job training

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Projections (Educational Attainment)

Currently, two community colleges in the South Central Coast region train students in programs related to the field of Technical Communication. Exhibit 11 displays the headcounts for each of the colleges training in this field. Headcount is the actual number of students enrolled, regardless of credit hours.

Exhibit 11 – Headcounts - 2016-17 (by TOP and College)

TOP Code	Program	College	CCC Headcount
0607	Technical Communication	Allan Hancock	-
		Antelope Valley	29
		Canyons	340
		Cuesta	-
		Moorpark	-
		Oxnard	-
		Santa Barbara	-
		Ventura	-
			369

Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office MIS Data Mart

In 2016 there was one regional institution, California State University Channel Islands, with a program related to Technical Communication with 1 annual completion (Postbaccalaureate certificate), 311 annual openings. The related program was Professional, Technical, Business, and Scientific Writing (CIP 23.1303) which aligns with Technical Communication (Top 0607.00)

1	1	311
Program (2016)	Completions (2016)	Openings (2016)

Student Outcomes

The CTE LaunchBoard provides student outcome data on the effectiveness of CTE programs. The following student outcome information was collected from exiters of Technical Communication (TOP Code: 0607.00) in the South Central Coast region for the 2015-16 academic year.

- The median annual wage after program completion is \$40,817
- 59% of students are employed after a year

Source: CTE LaunchBoard

Sources

O*Net Online, Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass), Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI), MIT Living Wage Calculator, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Education Attainment, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS) Data Mart, CTE LaunchBoard, Statewide CTE Outcomes Survey, Employment Development Department Unemployment Insurance Dataset

Notes

Data included in this analysis represents the labor market demand for positions most closely related to Technical Communication. Standard occupational classification (SOC) codes were chosen based on the training goals of the proposed certificates. Traditional labor market information was used to show current and projected employment based on data trends, as well as annual average awards granted by regional community colleges.