Technical writers translate complex data into user-friendly text for print and electronic publications, such as technical journals, government proposals, websites and podcasts. They gather information through research, statistical reports and interviews with technical staff. In smaller companies, tech writers may also perform editing, Web design and document publishing duties. Technical writers are often employed by defense contractors, software developers, scientific research organizations and government agencies. They may work as full-time employees, assigned to a particular department or as part-time independent contractors hired for a specific project.

### Required Education

Employers may require a Bachelor of Arts in Technical Writing or a related field, such as journalism or a Bachelor of Science degree in a technology-related discipline. Courses in Web coding and authoring systems, such as Extensible Markup Language (XML) or Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), as well as desktop and electronic publishing, can also enhance a technical writer's skill set. The Society for Technical Communication website offers online seminars as well as information about academic programs and scholarships in technical writing.

### Job Skills

Technical writers must be able to distill complex information into clear, concise text. They must have excellent writing and grammar skills and be able to work independently, delivering accurate documentation under deadline pressure. Tech writers must know a variety of software programs so they can write text, create charts and graphs, and incorporate diagrams and photos into documents. Some tech writing jobs also require editing, proofreading and document publishing abilities. Multimedia skills, such as blogging, Web design and video production, are becoming increasingly important.