

## Careers

Technical writers develop scientific or technical materials, such as scientific and medical reports, equipment manuals, appendices, or operating and maintenance instructions. They also may assist in layout work.

Technical writers put scientific and technical information into easily understandable language. They prepare scientific and technical reports, operating and maintenance manuals, catalogs, parts lists, assembly instructions, sales promotion materials, and project proposals. They also plan and edit technical reports and oversee preparation of illustrations, photographs, diagrams, and charts.

Students who have taken classes in technical writing, or who have completed Montgomery College's certificate program in technical writing work for organizations such as Visa, Raycal, Denro, Comsat, ACECOM, the U.S. government, and more.

## Salary

Median annual earnings for salaried technical writers were \$53,490 in 2004. The middle 50 percent earned between \$41,440 and \$68,980. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$32,490, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$86,780. Median annual earnings in computer and data processing services were \$54,710.

According to the Society for Technical Communication, the median annual salary for entry-level technical writers was \$42,500 in 2004.

## Job Outlook

Demand for technical writers and writers with expertise in specialty areas, such as law, medicine, or economics, is expected to grow about as fast as the average through 2014 due to the continuing expansion of scientific and technical information and the need to communicate it to others.

The Washington, D.C., area is considered the second best job market in the nation for technical writers and editors.

## Education & Training Options

Montgomery College offers a certificate curriculum in technical writing. (*See reverse for technical writing curricula.*)

### ■ Certificate

The certificate curriculum is designed for those already employed in technical positions or in related positions, seeking to move into careers in technical writing and editing, or to upgrade skills in these areas.

## Contact @ MC

Germantown Campus . . . . .240-567-7747  
[www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/humgt/technical\\_writing.htm](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/humgt/technical_writing.htm)

# Technical Writing Curriculum

## Degrees, Certificates, and Letters of Recognition

Montgomery College is authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to offer four degrees (associate of arts, associate of science, associate of applied science, and associate of arts in teaching) and certificates. In addition, the College recognizes students who satisfactorily complete certain course sequences with letters of recognition.

Some curricula are offered at all campuses, whereas others are limited to one or two. When a curriculum is offered at a specific campus, it is indicated by G for Germantown, R for Rockville, or TP for Takoma Park/Silver Spring.

## Admission to Montgomery College is open to all.

Math, English, and reading assessment tests are required prior to registering. (Some students may be exempt from assessment. Consult the *Montgomery College Catalog* for criteria.) Financial aid and scholarships are available to qualified candidates.

## Take the next step.

Complete an Application for Admission form (online @ [www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions/mcadmiss.htm](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions/mcadmiss.htm)) or call 240-567-5000 for information.

## Technical Writing Certificate (G): 143 Statewide Program

CG 120	Computer Graphics: Art and Illustration I	4
	CA or CS elective	3
EN 101	Techniques of Reading and Writing I	.3
EN 105	Principles of English Grammar	3
EN 109	Writing for Technology and Business	3
EN 125	Techniques of Proofreading and Editing	3
EN 240	Organization and Development of Technical Documents	3
MG 101	Principles of Management	
or		
MG 103	Introduction to Marketing	
or		
MG 205	Organizational Behavior	3
SP 112	Business and Professional Speech Communication	
or		
SP 212	Effective Technical Presentations	3

**Total credit hours 28**