

What Is Technical Communication?

Technical communication is a profession that focuses on the development, design, appearance, and distribution of technical literature and information. Technical information has many forms, such as user manuals, online help systems, policies and procedures, illustration, computer-based training and other training materials, Web-based information, and multimedia. Technical communicators come from a variety of occupations, such as

- Technical writing and editing
- Graphic design
- Multimedia design
- Digital video scripting, filming, and editing
- Web and intranet page information design and programming
- Translation
- Education and training
- User-centered design
- Other work that involves making technical information understandable and available to those who need it

Why Be a Technical Communicator?

Technical communication offers an exciting opportunity for growth and personal development, frequent opportunities to participate in state-of-the-art technologies, and a chance to help others learn. Furthermore, companies lean heavily on technical communicators to develop creative solutions to knowledge-based challenges. The demand for technical communicators continues to grow, with corresponding increases in salary projected for the foreseeable future.



SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

Designing the Future of Technical Communication

How to Start or Enhance Your Career as a Technical Communicator



Society for Technical Communication

Orange County STC

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How Do I Start or Enhance My Career as a Technical Communicator?

Whether you are starting or changing your career or want to give your current career in technical communication a boost, the key to your success is people. A supportive group of professionals can provide you with a chance to learn, information about job opportunities, and assistance in your job search, either now or in the future. The Society for Technical Communication (STC) is an exciting organization, with one of the nation's most dynamic chapters right here in Orange County.

What Is STC?

STC is an individual membership organization dedicated to advancing the arts and sciences of technical communication. It currently boasts over 20,000 members worldwide from the many fields of technical communication. Orange County STC (OCSTC) hosts over 400 members from many industry-leading companies in Southern California.

What Does OCSTC Offer to Technical Communicators?

Membership in STC provides technical communicators with many opportunities. As a member of STC, you become a part of the Orange County Chapter. OCSTC offers many strategic benefits to enhance your career.

◆ Chapter Web Site

The chapter Web site is continually updated with events, news, training opportunities, online periodicals, related links, and job announcements. Stay abreast by visiting us at www.ocstc.org.

- ◆ **OCSTC Job Listings**
OCSTC posts open job notices on the chapter Web site. The list is updated continually as notices are received.
- ◆ **OCSTC Member Résumés**
OCSTC members can post their résumé and a short profile on the chapter Web site for viewing by prospective employers.
- ◆ **Ongoing Seminars and Training in Leading Tools and Technologies**
OCSTC offers seminars and training programs for leading tools, technologies, and methods associated with technical communication. The OCSTC Training Web site and our newsletter, the *TechniScribe*, list all such opportunities.
- ◆ **Innovative Publications**
STC membership provides you with subscriptions to these innovative and insightful publications:
 - *Intercom*: STC's magazine contains timely professional articles as well as Society news 10 times a year.
 - *Technical Communication*: STC's highly acclaimed quarterly journal publishes thought-provoking research articles on subjects of interest to all technical communicators.
 - *TechniScribe*: OCSTC offers its own award-winning newsletter, published 11 times a year, with articles and opportunities related to Orange County.
- ◆ **Student Scholarships and Discounts**
OCSTC offers annual scholarships to students and price breaks for student members who participate in events sponsored by the chapter.

◆ Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

In addition to monthly chapter meetings, OCSTC enjoys active special interest groups that focus on specific fields (contracting, single sourcing, and management). In addition, STC has numerous SIGs that you can join.

◆ Conferences

STC sponsors regional and society-level conferences annually that cover all aspects of technical communication. STC's Annual Conference is the world's largest gathering of technical communicators. Attendees are certain to learn about the latest trends and technologies from industry experts.

How to Join OCSTC

Visit the OCSTC Web site and complete the New Member Information Form. The Membership Manager will send you an information packet with instructions.

You can also leave a voice mail message on the Chapter Hotline at (949) 863-7666. To ensure prompt response, please leave your mailing address, along with your name.

How to Visit a Chapter Meeting

OCSTC hosts monthly meetings throughout the year on the third Tuesday of each month. These meetings are open to STC members and nonmembers alike. Meetings feature dinner, dessert, and guest speakers who address topics that pertain to working in the field of technical communication. These meetings are a great way to learn about tools, trends, and technologies, and to network with other technical communicators.

To learn about and register for the next meeting, visit the OCSTC Web site.