



Scientific Communications Manager

JOB OUTLOOK³

Over the next 10 years, overall employment scientific communications managers is projected to grow faster than the average for all professions. The increased role of STEM in manufacturing goods will result in demand for scientific communications products such as user manuals, journal articles, and marketing product marketing materials. Communications managers and technical writers will be needed to create documents and presentations across a wide range of industries.

SALARY RANGE¹

\$52,000 – \$96,000

WHO ARE THEY?^{1,2,3}

Scientific communications managers are creative, organized, detail-oriented professionals who oversee the development of a variety of scientific documents and presentations for companies that produce STEM products. They are skilled writers who are able to help customers and colleagues understand technical information and concepts. They are able to develop, oversee, and refine efficient work processes for collecting, maintaining, and processing scientific data; as well as creating communications products. They have teamwork skills for collaborating with subject matter experts, vendors, and customers. Effective scientific communications managers combine solid content knowledge in their relevant field of science with the ability to present this information to others in a variety of formats.

WHAT DO THEY DO?^{1,2}

Scientific communications managers support a company's creation of products that communicate scientific information, such as marketing documents, journal submissions, presentations at scientific conferences, and product approval applications. They interact with subject matter experts (SMEs) to collect scientific information for communications products, as well as to review and edit reports written by SMEs. They develop processes for a company's development and maintenance of scientific data, and oversee the creation of products that communicate this information. They make sure that varied communication products are consistent with one another and aligned with the company's priorities and goals. They initiate and oversee tasks completed by outside vendors contracted to create scientific communications products, and often serve as points of contact for customers and outside partners.



CAREER PROFILE

Scientific Communications Manager (Continued)

EDUCATION/ TRAINING^{1,2,3}

- Master's Degree or PhD in a field of science
- Some may need coursework or a separate degree in English, Communications, or Writing
- Completion of on-the-job training that might include training on descriptive writing or a company's style guidelines

HOW DO I BECOME ONE?^{1,2,3}

Scientific communications managers need advanced degrees in an area of science relevant to the work of their employer, several years of experience working in this field, and additional experience in scientific writing. Some have completed coursework in English, writing, or communications, and some may need to complete on-the-job training on the writing style of their particular company.

In addition, scientific communications managers need outstanding oral and written communications skills; critical thinking skills and creativity for making complicated concepts seem simple to others; and organizational skills for managing multiple projects at the same time.

¹ "Manager, Scientific Communications Support," Altria Job Listing, Glassdoor. https://www.glassdoor.com/Job/scientific-communications-manager-jobs-SRCH_K00,33.htm.

² "Manager of Scientific Communications," Boutique Recruiting Job Listing, Glassdoor. https://www.glassdoor.com/Job/scientific-communications-manager-jobs-SRCH_K00,33.htm.

³ "Technical Writers," Occupational Outlook Handbook, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/technical-writers.htm#tab-1>.