

## **SALARY RANGE**

Average Annual Salary--\$49,500  
Salary Range--\$35,500-\$62,400

## **CAREER OUTLOOK**

Employment opportunities for medical writers are expected to increase by 25%-35%, which is faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2010. Technical writers with expertise in an area such as medicine or biology will be in great demand with the continuing expansion of scientific and technical information and the need to communicate it to others. As new discoveries are being made everyday, medical writers will see an increase in employment because of the need to communicate this highly technical information to a general audience. Technological advancements and the increasing use of the Internet will also have a positive affect on employment in this field.

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Medical Writer's Association  
40 West Gude Drive, Suite 101  
Rockville, MD 20850-1192  
Phone: (301) 294-5303  
Web: [www.amwa.org](http://www.amwa.org)

National Association of Science Writers, Inc.  
PO Box 294  
Greenlawn, NY 11740  
Phone: (631) 757-5664  
Web: [www.nasw.org](http://www.nasw.org)

Health Sciences Communications  
Association  
One Wedgewood Drive, Suite 28  
Jewett City, CT 06351-2428  
Phone: (860) 376-5915  
Web: [www.hesca.org](http://www.hesca.org)

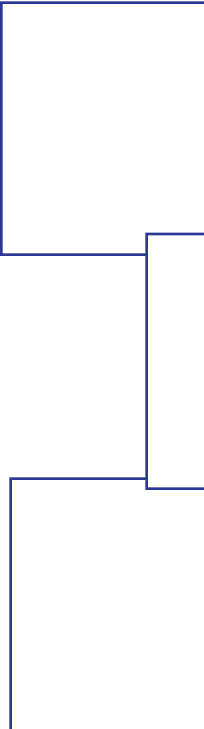


## **MHA HEALTH CAREERS CENTER**

6425 LAKEOVER ROAD (39213)  
P.O. Box 16444  
JACKSON, MS 39236-6444  
PHONE (601) 982-3251  
FAX (601) 368-3200

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## POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Medical writers, sometimes called health writers, analyze and interpret complex health related issues for use by other professional or the general public. They present their work in publications such as professional journals, newspaper health columns, television and radio broadcasts, brochures, textbooks, and instructional manuals. Their main objective is to present these complicated medical issues in the clearest and most concise terms, so that a layperson can understand the material as well as the most highly educated professional. Medical writers are sometimes employed by publishing companies or hospitals, but many are free-lance writers who work on a contract basis. These technical writers spend the majority of their productive working hours writing textbooks, information for educational courses, scripts for radio and television advertisements, and journal and newsletters for a variety of publications and organizations. Anyone considering medical writing should seek an education that consists of English, literature, journalism, as well as biological sciences. Individuals interested in a career in medical writing should be highly educated in biology and medical terminology as well as have excellent communication skills, especially written.

## WORK ENVIRONMENT

Many medical writers are self-employed and work on a contract basis. Some other areas of possible employment exist in publishing companies, pharmaceutical companies, advertising agencies, educational institutions, hospitals, government agencies, radio and television stations, and medical equipment companies.

## HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Students interested in a career as a medical writer should take high school courses in biology, chemistry, physics, anatomy and physiology, English, literature, algebra, geometry, psychology, social sciences, computer skills, writing, and health occupations/medical professions education.

## COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Individuals interested in medical writing must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. The majority of medical writers need to know the same terminology as other health professionals and have at least a bachelor's degree. They usually earn degrees in some type of science, but they may also major in English or journalism and minor in a science. The American Medical Writers Association offers certification for individuals who complete certain workshops and continuing education courses. Other professional experience may be required for certification.

## EDUCATION

No college offers a degree in these institutions. Various scientific

Alcorn State University  
PO Box 18399  
Natchez, MS 39101  
Phone: (601) 442-1000

Belhaven College  
1500 Peachtree  
Jackson, MS 39201  
Phone: (601) 961-1000

Delta State University  
PO Box 3154  
Cleveland, MS 38902  
Phone: (662) 844-1000

Jackson State University  
1325 J R Lynch  
Jackson, MS 39201  
Phone: (601) 961-1000

Mississippi College  
PO Box 4026  
Clinton, MS 39056  
Phone: (800) 961-1000

Mississippi State University  
PO Box 9727  
MS State, MS 39762  
Phone: (662) 323-1000

Mississippi University for Women  
PO Box W-161  
Columbus, MS 39702  
Phone: (662) 323-1000