

**STC Student/Faculty Roundtable**  
Wednesday, November 28, 2007, 5:00-6:00PM  
Brueggers on Hillsborough Street

STC international has been working with the Bureau of Labor Statistics to update the current entry for Technical Writer in the Standard Occupational Classification System (SOC). This definition is important because it has an effect on what people in our field get paid (at least in government jobs, but also as a “reference” by other employers).

Here is the old entry, followed by what STC has proposed for the new entry:

**Technical Writer**

“Write technical materials such as equipment manuals, appendices and maintenance materials.”

**Technical Communicator**

“Develop and design instructional and informational tools needed to assure the safe, appropriate and effective use of science and technology, intellectual property, and manufactured products and services. Combine multimedia knowledge and strong communication skills with technical expertise to educate across the entire spectrum of users’ abilities, technical expertise, and visual and auditory capabilities.”

**Discussion Points**

1. Stop laughing at the old definition.
2. Overall, what do you think about the new definition? What implications does it have?
3. Do any of the elements included in it surprise you? Why or why not?
4. What topics of the new definition do you think have corresponding classes to gain expertise in in our MS in Tech Comm program? Any covered in our CRDM PhD program?
5. Is there anything you’d take out of the new definition?
6. What’s missing that you might add, if anything?