

Architectural Technologist

Turn an architect's ideas into drawings a builder can use. A 2 or 3 year college diploma, Revit and the building code.

TYPICAL PAY

\$62,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$45k to \$82k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Architecture firms, home builders, municipal building departments,...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Grade 12 English and math. Physics and technological design help. Averages in the 70s are usually enough.
- 2 College diploma** 2 to 3 years
 A 2-year architectural technician or 3-year architectural technology diploma. Algonquin, Sheridan, Conestoga, George Brown and Fanshawe in Ontario; BCIT (British Columbia Institute of Technology); SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology) and NAIT (Northern A...
- 3 First job** Right after graduation
 Drafting in Revit at an architecture firm, a home builder or an engineering firm. Co-op terms during the diploma often turn into this job.
- 4 Certification** 2 years after graduation
 After about 2 years of experience, apply to OACETT (Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists) or your provincial body, pass a practice exam, and use the C.E.T. (certified engineering technologist) title.
- 5 Optional: BCIN (Building Code Identification Number)** A few months of study
 In Ontario, pass provincial building code exams to design houses and small buildings under your own name.

Pros and cons

- + Short, cheap education with real jobs at the end
- + Steady hours and often paid overtime
- + Clear side path into building inspection with a pension
- Pay tops out lower than for architects and engineers
- You draw someone else's design most of the time
- Work slows when construction slows

Good to know

Most house plans are not drawn by architects

In Ontario, houses and small buildings up to three storeys and 600 square metres can be designed by anyone holding a BCIN (Building Code Identification Number). Most of them are technologists.

The title is protected by law

Ontario passed an act giving OACETT (Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists) members the exclusive right to the certified technologist and technician titles. Using them wi...

Optional boosts

BCIN (Building Code Identification Number). BIM (building information modelling) lead. Building code specialist. Energy modelling and Passive House.

Where these numbers come from

Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists

OACETT: Dues and fees

Job Bank: Architectural technologists and technicians, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/architectural-technologist>



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