

Cardiology Technologist

Run the heart tests: ECGs (electrocardiograms), stress tests, Holter monitors and pacemaker checks. A 2-year diploma and a national exam.

TYPICAL PAY

\$71,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$48k to \$106k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Hospital cardiology departments, cardiologists' offices, heart clinics...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grade 12
Grade 12 English and math, plus Grade 11 or 12 biology, chemistry and physics. Algonquin also runs an entrance test.
- 2 Approved program** 1 to 2 years
A 2-year college diploma (Algonquin in Ottawa, BCIT (British Columbia Institute of Technology)) or a shorter certificate (Mohawk, St. Clair, CCNB (Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick)). Anatomy, heart rhythms, electronics, then clinical placement that may be outside.
- 3 Write the CSCT (Canadian Society of Cardiology Technologists) exam** After graduation
The national certification exam, offered in May and October. Pass it and you are an RCT (registered cardiology technologist).
- 4 Join your provincial association and get hired** Weeks to months
Hospitals want the RCT (registered cardiology technologist) credential even where it is not the law.

Pros and cons

- + Two years of school for a hospital job with a pension
- + You see real emergencies and real results
- + Clear ladder into device clinics, cath labs or echo
- Shift work and on-call in hospitals
- Physically busy: pushing carts, lifting patients
- Less known than nursing, so fewer job postings in small towns

Good to know

About 1,800 in the whole country

The CSCT (Canadian Society of Cardiology Technologists) has just over 1,800 registered members across Canada. It is a small profession, which is part of why hospitals struggle to fill jobs.

The ECG (electrocardiogram) won a Nobel Prize

Willem Einthoven built the first practical electrocardiograph in the early 1900s and won the 1924 Nobel Prize in medicine for it. The letters he chose for the waves, P, Q, R, S and T, are still what technologists refer to.

Optional boosts

Pacemaker and defibrillator device clinic. Cardiac cath lab. Echocardiography. Electrophysiology.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Cardiology technologist, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Canadian Society of Cardiology Technologists

CSCT: approved education programs

Algonquin College: Cardiovascular Technology diploma

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/cardiology-technologist>



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