

Chemical Technologist

Run the tests that decide whether a product, a batch of water or a shipment of fuel is safe to release. Two years of college.

TYPICAL PAY

\$62,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$44k to \$99k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Testing labs, refineries, food and drug plants, water utilities

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Grade 12 chemistry, math and English. Physics helps. Admission usually needs the 65% to 75% range.
- 2 College diploma** 2 years
 Two years in chemical technology, chemical laboratory technology or process technology. Programs accredited by Technology Accreditation Canada are the safest bet.
- 3 Co-op or lab placement** One term
 Many programs include a paid work term. It is the usual route to the first job.
- 4 First job** Right after graduation
 Quality control, environmental testing, water treatment, food and drug manufacturing, or a refinery lab.
- 5 Optional certification** 2 years after graduation
 After about two years of work, apply for the C.E.T. (certified engineering technologist) title through your provincial association.

Pros and cons

- + Two years of school and a real technical job
- + Work exists in every province and many industries
- + Clear, measurable work with a right answer
- Repetitive. Many days are the same tests again.
- Commercial testing labs pay poorly and burn people out
- Shift work in continuous plants

Good to know

Every glass of tap water was tested by someone

Canadian drinking water systems run constant chemical and bacterial testing, and the results are legally required records. Chemical technologists are the people doing it, usually on a schedule that neve...

Alberta pays well above the national middle

Alberta's wage survey puts the average chemical technologist near \$78,000 a year, compared with a national median around \$62,000. The difference is refineries, upgraders and pipeline labs.

Optional boosts

Instrument specialisation. Drug manufacturing. Process operator crossover. Quality management.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Chemical technologist, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 alis Alberta: Chemical Technologist occupational profile
 Chemical Institute of Canada
 Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists

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/chemical-technologist>



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