

Cloud Engineer

Build and run the rented computers, storage and networks that most software now lives on. Certifications count for more than your degree.

TYPICAL PAY

\$96,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$60k to \$143k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

3 to 6 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Tech companies, banks, consulting firms, government, remote

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Computer science, math and English. Make a free cloud account and host a small website on it.
- 2 Diploma or degree** 2 to 4 years
 A 2 to 3 year computer systems diploma or a 4-year computer science degree. Co-op terms matter a lot in this field.
- 3 First IT or developer job** 1 to 2 years
 Systems administrator, network technician or junior developer. Learn how real companies run things, then start moving those things to the cloud.
- 4 Certify and specialize** 6 to 12 months
 One associate-level certification from AWS (Amazon Web Services), Microsoft Azure or Google Cloud. An 8-month graduate certificate such as Seneca's Cloud Architecture and Administration is another way in.
- 5 Cloud engineer** Year 3 to 6 onward
 Building and running cloud systems full time. Next steps are senior engineer, cloud architect, or DevOps (development plus operations) and site reliability roles.

Pros and cons

- + High pay relative to the education required
- + Remote work is the norm, not the exception
- + Good outlook across most provinces as companies keep migrating
- Almost never an entry-level job; you need a first IT role to get here
- Certifications expire, so studying never really stops
- On-call rotations and outages that make the news

Optional boosts

Professional-level cloud certifications. Kubernetes. Security specialty. Infrastructure as code.

Good to know

The cloud has a Canadian address

All three big cloud providers run data centres in Canada, mostly around Montreal and Toronto, partly because some government and health data has to stay inside the country. Cloud engineers here wor...

The exam is cheaper than a textbook

The AWS (Amazon Web Services) Solutions Architect Associate exam costs US\$150 and takes 130 minutes. It is one of the most requested credentials in Canadian tech job ads.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Cloud service management specialist (NOC 21222), wages (updated Nov 2025)

AWS: Certified Solutions Architect, Associate

Microsoft: Azure Administrator Associate certification

Seneca Polytechnic: Cloud Architecture and Administration graduate certificate

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/cloud-engineer>



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