

College Instructor

Teach your trade or field at a college. Real work experience counts more than a doctorate.

TYPICAL PAY

\$94,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$50k to \$153k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

5 to 10 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Colleges, polytechnics, trade shops, online classrooms

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grade 12
 Get into the field you eventually want to teach. Nothing about teaching yet.
- 2 Credential in your field** 2 to 4 years
 A college diploma, a degree, or a licensed trade certificate. Colleges usually want a credential one level above the program you would teach.
- 3 Work in the field** 5 years or more
 This is the real requirement. Five years or more of current, hands-on experience is a common posting minimum.
- 4 Teach part time** 1 to 3 years
 Pick up a night course or a single section. This is how almost everyone gets in the door and finds out if they like it.
- 5 Full-time posting** Varies
 Apply, interview, teach a demo lesson. Many colleges then ask you to finish a short teaching certificate in your first year or two.

Pros and cons

- + Your work experience is the qualification
- + Good pay with a pension and a union
- + Small classes and practical teaching
- Getting a full-time posting can take years of part-time work
- Part-time teaching pays by the hour with no benefits
- Programs get cut when enrolment drops

Optional boosts

A master's degree. Red Seal or a professional licence. Curriculum development. Program coordinator.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: College teacher, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Colleges and Institutes Canada
 College Employer Council (Ontario public colleges)

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/college-instructor>

Good to know

Every public college in Ontario pays the same

Full-time faculty at Ontario's 24 public colleges bargain as one group, so the grid is identical whether you teach in Toronto or Timmins. The College Employer Council negotiates on the colleges' side.

Quebec students go to college first

In Quebec, students finish high school a year earlier and attend CEGEP (the province's public college system) before university or a career program. Teaching there is a college instructor job.



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