

Dental Technologist

Make the crowns, bridges, dentures and aligners a dentist prescribes, in a lab, never with a patient. Craft work that is going digital fast.

TYPICAL PAY

\$60,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$40k to \$94k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Commercial dental labs, in-clinic labs, dental schools, manufacturers

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Grade 12 English, biology, and a chemistry, physics or math. Art helps.
- 2 Dental technology diploma** 2 to 3 years
 2 to 3 years at a college: George Brown in Toronto, NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) in Edmonton, or Vancouver Community College. Crowns, bridges, dentures, orthodontic appliances, implants, and digital design. Programs end with a practicum in a real lab.
- 3 Registration exam** After graduation
 Required in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and BC. In Ontario you register with the College of Dental Technologists of Ontario and earn the RDT (registered dental technologist) title.
- 4 Specialize** First few years
 Most technologists settle into one area: ceramics, removable dentures, orthodontics, implants or digital design.

Pros and cons

- + Hands-on craft work with a real object at the end
- + No patients, no blood, regular hours
- + Digital skills are in short supply and growing
- Starting pay is low
- Hours hunched over a bench, dust and fumes if the lab is careless
- Cheap overseas labs compete on price

Optional boosts

Ceramics. Digital design and milling. Implant work. Owning a lab.

Good to know

You will never meet the patient

A dental technologist makes things for a mouth they never see. Everything comes as an impression, a scan and a shade note from the dentist. The denturist is the one dental maker who does see patients.

The bench is going digital

Crowns that used to take days of waxing and casting are now designed on screen and milled or printed in hours. Clear aligners are made almost entirely this way. Labs that adopted the technology gre...

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Dental technologists, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 College of Dental Technologists of Ontario
 Vancouver Community College: Dental Technology Sciences diploma
 NAIT: Dental 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/dental-technologist>



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