

DevOps Engineer

Keep the software running and the releases flowing. One of the best-paid jobs in tech, and one of the least visible.

TYPICAL PAY

\$117,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$73k to \$190k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

3 to 6 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Software companies, banks, telecoms, government, remote

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Math and computer science. Install Linux on an old laptop and learn the command line. That one habit is the start of this career.
- 2 Computer science degree or college diploma** 2 to 5 years
A 4-year degree or a 2 to 3 year diploma. BCIT (British Columbia Institute of Technology) offers a Cloud Computing option in its diploma. Pick co-op.
- 3 First tech job** 1 to 3 years
Developer, systems administrator or IT (information technology) support. You learn how software actually breaks.
- 4 Learn the DevOps toolset** Alongside work
A cloud platform (AWS, Amazon Web Services, or Azure), containers (Docker, Kubernetes), continuous integration and delivery (CI/CD) pipelines, infrastructure as code (Terraform). Get one or two certificates.
- 5 Move into DevOps** 3 to 6 years after high school
Often inside the same company, by being the developer who fixes the deploy pipeline.

Pros and cons

- + Among the highest median pay in Canadian tech
- + Remote work is normal
- + Skills are needed in every industry that runs software, which is all of them
- On-call: outages happen at 3am and you are the one who answers
- Hard to enter straight from school, most people need a first tech job
- Tools change fast and you must keep up

Optional boosts

AWS (Amazon Web Services) Solutions Architect or DevOps Engineer. CKA (Certified Kubernetes Administrator). Microsoft Azure or Google Cloud certificates. Security.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: DevOps engineer, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Job Bank: DevOps engineer, job outlook

AWS Certification: levels and exams

CNCF: Certified Kubernetes Administrator exam

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/devops-engineer>

Good to know

The name is two jobs glued together

DevOps is short for development and operations. Twenty years ago, developers wrote code and a separate operations team ran the servers, and the two groups blamed each other when things broke. D...

Kubernetes came from Greek

Kubernetes, the tool most DevOps engineers spend their days with, is the Greek word for helmsman, the person who steers a ship. That is why its logo is a ship's wheel.



Scan for the full clicker