

Drafting Technologist

Turn rough ideas into the exact drawings and 3D models that get built. One to three years of college.

TYPICAL PAY

\$66,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$45k to \$101k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Engineering firms, manufacturers,
construction companies, city offi...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Grade 12 math and English. Physics and any design or shop class help. Admission averages are usually in the 60s and 70s.
- 2 College program** 1 to 3 years
 A one-year drafting certificate, or a two or three year technology diploma in mechanical, civil, architectural or engineering design and drafting. The longer diploma opens more doors.
- 3 Build a portfolio** Throughout school
 Keep your best drawing sets and 3D models. Employers hire on what you can show, not on marks.
- 4 First job** Right after graduation
 Junior drafter at an engineering firm, a fabricator, a home builder or a city. Many start on a contract.
- 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

- + Cheapest and fastest way into the design world
- + Steady hours and paid overtime
- + You can see your drawings turn into real buildings and machines
- Routine drafting is shrinking as software automates it
- Long hours sitting at a screen
- You execute someone else's design decisions

Optional boosts

Structural steel detailing. BIM (building information modelling) coordination. Piping and plant design. Laser scanning.

Good to know

Steel detailers are hunted

Every beam, plate and bolt in a steel building needs a shop drawing before it can be cut. Canadian fabricators are short of people who can produce them, which is why that corner of drafting pays like an engin...

The clash check saves real money

Running a 3D model to find where pipes, ducts and beams collide catches problems that used to be discovered by a crew on site with a cutting torch. Finding one before construction can save more than a...

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Drafting technologist, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists
 OACETT: fees and dues
 Technology Accreditation Canada

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/drafting-technologist>



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