

Electrical Engineering Technologist

Design, test and commission electrical systems beside the engineers. A two-year college diploma gets you in.

TYPICAL PAY

\$74,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$50k to \$115k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Utilities, factories, engineering firms, controls and automation co...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Grade 12 math, physics and English. Most programs want the 65% to 75% range, not the 90s.
- 2 College diploma** 2 years
 Two years in electrical engineering technology, electronics engineering technology or instrumentation. Look for a program accredited by Technology Accreditation Canada.
- 3 First job** Right after graduation
 Junior technologist at a consulting firm, a utility, a plant or a controls company. Co-op terms usually lead straight to it.
- 4 Certification** 2 years after graduation
 After about two years of supervised work, apply to your provincial association and pass the professional practice exam to use the C.E.T. (certified engineering technologist) title.
- 5 Optional: keep climbing** Later
 Some employers pay for a degree bridge to an engineering degree, or for Alberta's professional technologist designation, which lets you stamp work inside a set scope.

Pros and cons

- + Two years of college and a real job at the end
- + Little or no student debt compared with a degree
- + Paid overtime is common
- You do the work, the engineer signs it
- Pay tops out lower than for a licensed engineer
- Industrial sites mean shutdowns, shift work and travel

Good to know

Two years can out-earn four

A technologist who lands at a utility or on industrial commissioning work often passes \$100,000 before a friend who started a four-year engineering degree at the same time has finished paying off tuition.

The title is law, not etiquette

Calling yourself a certified engineering technologist in Ontario without belonging to OACETT (Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists) is an offence under provincial law, th...

Optional boosts

PLC (programmable logic controller) programming. SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) systems. Power systems. Instrumentation.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Electrical engineering technologist, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 alis Alberta: Electrical Engineering Technologist occupational profile
 Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists
 OACETT: fees and dues

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/electrical-engineering-technologist>



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