

Engineering Technologist

The hands-on half of every engineering office. A 2 or 3 year college diploma, then drafting, testing and site work.

TYPICAL PAY

\$70,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$55k to \$90k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Engineering firms, construction sites, factories, testing labs

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grade 12
 Grade 12 with a college-level math and a science. Averages in the 65 to 75 range get in at most colleges.
- 2 College diploma** 2 to 3 years
 2 years for a technician diploma, 3 for a technologist advanced diploma. Civil, mechanical, electrical, electronics, chemical or environmental. Many include co-op.
- 3 Work** 2 years
 Get hired at an engineering firm, contractor, utility or manufacturer. Drafting, testing, surveying, inspection.
- 4 Certification** After 2 years of experience
 Apply to your provincial association, such as OACETT (Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists). Pass a professional practice exam and submit a technology report. You can now use the title CET (certified engineering technologist).

Pros and cons

- + Working and earning 1 or 2 years before an engineering graduate
- + Cheaper school and a lower admission bar
- + More hands-on than engineering
- Pay tops out lower than an engineer doing similar work
- You cannot sign off on designs on your own
- Some employers treat technologists as support staff

Optional boosts

Bridge to an engineering degree. P.Tech (professional technologist) in Alberta. Limited licence in Ontario. Specialty tickets.

Good to know

Bigger than you think

OACETT (Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists) has more than 21,000 members. Technologists are one of the largest engineering-related groups in the province.

Alberta lets technologists sign

In Alberta an experienced technologist can become a P.Tech (professional technologist) and take independent responsibility for engineering work within a defined scope. It is the closest thing to an...

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Civil engineering technologists and technicians, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Job Bank: Mechanical engineering technologists and technicians, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 OACETT (Ontario's technologist association)
 OACETT fees schedule (2026)

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/engineering-technologist>



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