

Mechanical Engineer

Machines, engines, heating systems and factories. The biggest engineering discipline, with the widest choice of employers.

TYPICAL PAY

\$90,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$65k to \$130k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 8 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Manufacturing plants, consulting firms, energy companies, automot...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Advanced Functions, Calculus, Physics and Chemistry are required. Marks in the high 80s or above at most schools.
- 2 Accredited mechanical engineering degree** 4 to 5 years with co-op
 A four-year Bachelor of Engineering or Applied Science at a school accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board. Almost every engineering school in Canada offers mechanical.
- 3 Engineer-in-training** About 4 years
 Register with your provincial regulator and work under a licensed engineer. Log your experience.
- 4 Professional practice exam** During your EIT (engineer-in-training) years
 A law and ethics exam, taken during your training years.
- 5 P.Eng (professional engineer) licence** After 4 years
 Apply with your experience record and references. Now you can seal drawings and take legal responsibility for designs.

Pros and cons

- + The widest choice of industries of any engineering discipline
- + You can see and touch what you design
- + Licence is respected and portable across Canada
- Hard degree with heavy math and physics
- Four more years to full licence after graduation
- Manufacturing jobs come and go with the economy

Good to know

The biggest discipline

About a quarter of the engineering degrees awarded in Canada each year are in mechanical, more than any other discipline. That is why it is the safest bet if you like engineering but do not know which kind yet.

The snowmobile is Canadian

Joseph-Armand Bombardier built his first snow vehicles in Valcourt, Quebec, and launched the Ski-Doo in 1959. His company grew into Bombardier, which now builds business jets.

Optional boosts

HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) design. Automation and robotics. Project Management Professional (PMP). A master's degree in a specialty.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Mechanical engineers, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Engineers Canada: Overview of the licensing process
 Professional Engineers Ontario: fee schedule (PDF, Nov 2022)
 APEGA (Alberta regulator): member dues (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/mechanical-engineer>



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