

Mechanical Engineering Technologist

Draw, test and fix the moving parts of machines and buildings. Two years of college, then a job on the plant floor and at a desk.

TYPICAL PAY

\$73,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$48k to \$107k

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

Manufacturing plants, engineering firms, building services, energy co...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Grade 12 math, physics and English. Most programs want marks in the 65% to 75% range.
- 2 College diploma** 2 years
Two years in mechanical engineering technology. Look for accreditation by Technology Accreditation Canada. SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology) runs streams in design and analysis, design and automation, and design and development.
- 3 Capstone and co-op** Final term
Most programs end in a team project with a real industry partner. It is the strongest thing on a first resume.
- 4 First job** Right after graduation
Designer, drafter, test technologist or project coordinator at a manufacturer, consulting firm or plant.
- 5 Certification** 2 years after graduation
After about two years of relevant work, apply for the C.E.T. (certified engineering technologist) title through your provincial association.

Pros and cons

- + Two years and about \$12,000 to a real technical job
- + Hands-on and design work in the same week
- + Paid overtime and strong industrial pay in the west
- The engineer signs off on your work, and gets the title
- Pay plateaus around \$100,000 without moving into management
- Manufacturing is cyclical, layoffs happen in downturns

Optional boosts

3D modelling and GD&T (geometric dimensioning and tolerancing). HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) design. Automation and robotics. Piping and pressure equipment.

Good to know

The drawing is a legal document

A dimension with the wrong tolerance can scrap a batch of parts worth more than your salary. That is why technologist programs spend so much time on how to specify a part, not just how to draw it.

Alberta pays a premium

Alberta's wage survey puts the average mechanical engineering technologist near \$89,000 a year, well above the national median, because so much of the work is in oil, gas, mining and power.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Mechanical engineering technologist, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 alis Alberta: Mechanical Engineering Technologist occupational profile
 SAIT: Mechanical Engineering Technology diploma
 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/mechanical-engineering-technologist>



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