

Medical Radiation Technologist

Take the X-rays and scans, or deliver radiation treatment for cancer. Two to three years of school and a national exam.

TYPICAL PAY

\$82,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$65k to \$100k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Hospital imaging departments,
clinics, cancer centres**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Grade 12 physics, biology, math and English. Chemistry helps.
- 2 Choose a discipline** Before you apply
Radiological (X-ray and CT (computed tomography)), MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), nuclear medicine, or radiation therapy. Radiological is the biggest and the usual starting point.
- 3 Accredited program** 2 to 4 years
A 2 to 3 year college diploma or a 3 to 4 year joint degree. Physics, anatomy, patient care and radiation safety, then months of full-time unpaid clinical placement.
- 4 Write the CAMRT (Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists) exam** After graduation
The national certification exam, one per discipline.
- 5 Register with your provincial regulator** A few weeks
In Ontario that is the CMRITO (College of Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologists of Ontario).

Pros and cons

- + Short training for a solid hospital wage
- + Union, pension and on-call pay
- + Four disciplines and lots of room to cross-train
- Shift work and on-call in most imaging jobs
- Physically hard on the back and shoulders
- Radiation therapy means daily work with people who may not survive

Good to know

Canada built the first cobalt cancer machines

In 1951, teams in Saskatoon and London, Ontario built the world's first cobalt-60 units to treat cancer with radiation. Radiation therapists have been delivering treatment in Canada ever since.

The magnet is always on

MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) uses no radiation, but the magnet is strong enough to pull an oxygen tank across the room. Technologists screen every person and object that enters, every time.

Optional boosts

CT (computed tomography). MRI (magnetic resonance imaging). Mammography and interventional radiology. PET (positron emission tomography).

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Medical radiation technologists, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
College of Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologists of Ontario

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/medical-radiation-technologist>



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