

Nuclear Medicine Technologist

Inject a tiny radioactive tracer, then image how the body works, not just how it looks. A 2 to 4 year program and one national exam.

TYPICAL PAY

\$83,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$62k to \$106k

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 nuclear medicine departments, cancer centres, priv...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Grade 12 physics, chemistry, biology, math and English. Chemistry matters more here than in X-ray.
- 2 Accredited nuclear medicine program** 2 to 4 years
 A college diploma or a joint college–university degree. Radiation physics, radiopharmacy (preparing the tracers), anatomy, patient care, then months of full-time unpaid clinical placement. Some programs want a year of university science first.
- 3 Write the CAMRT (Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists) exam** After graduation
 The national certification exam. Nuclear medicine is written on the second day of each sitting, in January, May and September.
- 4 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

- + Mostly daytime hours compared with X-ray or nursing
- + Union, pension and a solid hospital wage after 2 to 3 years of school
- + A mix of chemistry, physics and patient care
- You work with radiation every day and are monitored for it
- Few schools and few seats, so admission is tough
- Scans are long, so patient volume is low and staffing is tight

Good to know

Canada supplied the world's tracers

For decades the Chalk River reactor in Ontario produced a large share of the world's supply of molybdenum-99, the raw material for the most common nuclear medicine tracer. It shut down in 2018, and hos...

Gone in a day

The most-used tracer, technetium-99m, has a half-life of about 6 hours. The dose you inject in the morning has mostly decayed by bedtime, which is exactly why it is safe enough to use.

Optional boosts

PET (positron emission tomography). CT (computed tomography). Radiopharmacy. Theranostics.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Nuclear medicine technologist, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists

CAMRT: certification exam dates and fees

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/nuclear-medicine-technologist>



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