

Radiation Therapist

Deliver the daily radiation treatments that cure or control cancer. Three to four years of school, weekday hours, and the same patients for weeks at a time.

TYPICAL PAY

\$83,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$62k to \$106k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

3 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Cancer centres, hospital radiation oncology departments

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Grade 12 physics, biology, math and English. Chemistry helps.
- 2 Accredited radiation therapy program** 3 to 4 years
Usually a 3-year college program or a 4-year joint college-university degree. Radiation physics, anatomy, cancer biology, treatment planning and patient care, then months of full-time unpaid clinical placement in a cancer centre. Some programs want a year of university...
- 3 Write the CAMRT (Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists) exam** After graduation
The national certification exam. Radiation therapy 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

- + Weekday daytime hours and almost no on-call
- + Real relationships with patients over weeks of treatment
- + Union grid, pension and steady demand
- Some of your patients will not survive, and you will know them
- Few programs, tough admission, long unpaid placements
- Almost every job is in a large city with a cancer centre

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. Canadian radiation therapists have been delivering treatment ever since.

Millimetres matter

Modern treatment plans shape the beam to the tumour and spare the organs beside it, so patients are lined up to within a few millimetres every single day. Therapists image the patient before many treatment...

Optional boosts

Treatment planning (dosimetry). Advanced practice radiation therapist. Brachytherapy. Quality and safety roles.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Radiation therapist, 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/radiation-therapist>



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