

Broadcast Technician

Run and repair the gear that gets a radio or television signal out of the building and into people's homes.

TYPICAL PAY

\$59,570

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$31k to \$124k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Television and radio stations,
remote trucks, transmitter sites, s...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Physics, electronics, computer courses. Join the school broadcast club or help run the sound at events.
- 2 Certificate or associate degree** 1 to 4 years
 Broadcast technology, electronics or audio engineering at a community college. A four year media technology degree also works and is not required.
- 3 Work at a college or community station** During school
 The fastest way to get real hours. Several journalism schools run full commercial stations staffed by students.
- 4 First job in a small market** 2 to 3 years
 Master control, board operating, or an assistant engineer role. Nights and weekends to start.
- 5 Certification and a bigger market** Ongoing
 Add Society of Broadcast Engineers certifications, learn transmitters and networking, and move up market or into engineering.

Pros and cons

- + Short, affordable training
- + Hands-on technical work with an immediate result
- + Skills transfer to streaming, sports and corporate video
- Employment in traditional broadcasting is declining
- Small market starting pay is low
- Nights, weekends, holidays and emergency call-outs

Optional boosts

Computer networking. Radio frequency and transmitters. Live sports and remote trucks. Streaming and encoding.

Good to know

Television is now mostly computers

A modern station routes video as data over network switches rather than through banks of dedicated video hardware. That is why job postings for broadcast engineers read half like information technolog...

Transmitters are usually on a mountain

To cover a whole city, the antenna needs height. Engineers regularly drive up unpaved mountain roads in winter to restart a transmitter that a lightning strike knocked off the air.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Broadcast Technicians

Society of Broadcast Engineers

Society of Broadcast Engineers: certification levels

National Association of Broadcasters

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/broadcast-technician>



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