

Chemical Technologist

Run the tests that decide whether a batch ships. Two years of college, a lab coat, and steady work in industry.

TYPICAL PAY

\$60,390

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$42k to \$92k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Quality control labs, chemical plants, pharmaceutical plants, en...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Chemistry and math, plus any class that makes you write things down carefully. Neatness is a job skill here.
- 2 Two-year degree or certificate** 1 to 2 years
 An associate of applied science in chemical technology, laboratory technology or process technology at a community college.
- 3 Internship or co-op**
 One term inside a real lab. It is how most graduates get their first job, and it pays.
- 4 First job** Year 1
 Sample preparation, running instruments, logging results, cleaning glassware. Everybody starts there.
- 5 Senior or lead technician** Year 4 onward
 Method validation, training new technicians, maintaining the instruments and owning a piece of the lab.

Pros and cons

- + Two years and under \$8,000 gets you into a technical career
- + Indoor, climate controlled, predictable work
- + Employers frequently pay for the degree that promotes you
- Repetitive: a lot of days are the same test over and over
- You handle hazardous chemicals, and carelessness has real consequences
- Shift work and being called in when production has a problem

Optional boosts

Chromatography. Mass spectrometry. Quality systems. Statistics.

Good to know

Every chemical in the building has a paper trail

Federal rules require a safety data sheet for every hazardous substance in a workplace, listing what it is, what it does to you and what to do when it spills. Reading them is one of the first things a ne...

If it is not written down, it did not happen

In a regulated lab, an auditor judges your result by the record behind it. A perfect analysis with an incomplete logbook entry gets thrown out, which is why documentation discipline is taken so seriously.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Chemical Technicians (19-4031.00)
 Delaware Technical Community College
 Apprenticeship.gov: United States Department of Labor
 United States Environmental Protection Agency: careers

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/chemical-technologist>



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