

Electrical Engineering Technologist

Turn an engineer's drawing into a working circuit, then test it until you know exactly why it fails.

TYPICAL PAY

\$78,190

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$50k to \$116k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Engineering firms, factories, utilities, test labs, defense supplie...

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Algebra, trigonometry and physics. Shop or robotics club if your school has one.
- 2 Associate degree in electrical or electronics engineering technology** 2 years
Two years at a community college or technical school. Circuits, digital logic, instrumentation, and a lot of bench time.
- 3 First job as a technician** Straight after graduating
Test, assembly, calibration or field service. You learn the equipment your employer actually sells.
- 4 Certification** 1 to 3 years in
ETA International (the Electronics Technicians Association) and the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies both run tiered credentials that employers recognize.
- 5 Four-year technology degree, if you want to lead** 2 years, optional
Two more years, often part time and paid for by your employer. This is the step from technician pay to technologist pay.

Pros and cons

- + Good pay after only two years of college
- + Hands-on work, not only screens
- + Cheap route in, and Pell Grants often cover it
- The occupation is expected to shrink, not grow
- You implement other people's designs more than your own
- A ceiling that engineers do not have, unless you go back to school

Optional boosts

Certified Electronics Technician. Engineering technology certification. PLC (programmable logic controller) training. Fiber optics installation.

Good to know

Technologist and technician are not the same word

In the accreditation system a technician usually holds a two-year degree and a technologist a four-year one. The national wage survey counts them together, which is why one published median has to cov...

There are two separate accreditation commissions

ABET (the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) runs one commission for engineering degrees and a different one for engineering technology, covering associate and bachelor's programs...

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians (17-3023.00)

ABET: accreditation, including engineering technology programs

National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies

ETA International: electronics technician certifications

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/electrical-engineering-technologist>



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