

JOB DESCRIPTION

Cardiographic or electrocardiogram (EKG) technicians specialize in EKG testing. EKG machines monitor the heart's performance through electrodes attached to a patient's chest, arms, and legs. Tests record heart metrics while the patient is at rest or is physically active, such as walking on a treadmill.

Cardiographic or electrocardiogram (EKG) technicians typically do the following:

- Prepare patients by explaining the procedure and answering questions
- Prepare exam rooms and maintain equipment
- Properly position patients for testing
- Operate equipment to obtain diagnostic information
- Check for quality and coverage of the areas needed for diagnoses
- Analyze results for abnormalities and provide a summary of findings to physicians
- Record findings and keep track of patients' records

PAY

Median annual salary for cardiovascular technologists and technicians was \$67,260 (\$32.37/hour) in May 2024

JOB OUTLOOK

11% (Much faster than average) 2023-2033

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Cardiovascular technologists and technicians typically need formal education, such as an associate degree or a postsecondary certificate. Employers may require or prefer that workers have certification.

Training programs are typically designed to prepare students for the National Healthcareer Association (NHA) Certified EKG Technician (CET) certification.

Some schools offer EKG training as part of their medical assisting program.

IMPORTANT SKILLS

- **Communication skills.** Cardiovascular technologists and technicians work closely with patients, and must be able to explain the procedure in an understandable way. They also must clearly provide information when discussing images with physicians and healthcare team members.
- **Detail-oriented.** Cardiovascular technologists and technicians follow precise instructions to obtain the images needed to diagnose and treat patients. They also must be aware of the images they produce, because healthy and unhealthy areas may be subtle.
- **Hand-eye coordination.** Cardiovascular technologists and technicians must accurately move equipment on the patient's body based on what they see on the screen.
- **Physical stamina.** Cardiovascular technologists and technicians stand for long periods and must be able to lift and move patients as needed.
- **Technical skills.** Cardiovascular technologists and technicians need technical skills to operate complex equipment.

CERTIFICATE & TRAINING PROGRAMS

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER (*Brecksville*)

A comprehensive 75-hour program prepares students to function as EKG Technicians and take the National Healthcareer Association (NHA) Certified EKG Technician exam. This course includes practice and background information on anatomy of the heart, physiology, medical disease processes, medical terminology, medical ethics and legal aspects of patient contact, and electrocardiography.

<https://cvccworks.edu/adult-education/adult-education-programs/ekg-technician/>

CERTIFICATE & TRAINING PROGRAMS *(continued)*

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY *(online, Cleveland)*

This online ***EKG Technician Certification program*** covers conducting and interpreting electrocardiograms (EKGs) beginning with reviewing the anatomy and physiology of the heart. The program is 2-4 months in length.

<https://csuohio.edu2.com/product/978/ekg-technician>

LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE *(Kirtland)*

This ***Electrocardiography certificate/area of specialization*** provides students with the basic knowledge and skills to perform an electrocardiogram (ECG). It also introduces basic cardiac arrhythmias and medications used to treat them during this 5 credit-hour program.

<https://catalog.lakelandcc.edu/degree-certificate-programs/hlth/3251/#programrequirementstext>

LAROCK HEALTHCARE ACADEMY *(Cleveland)*

The ***EKG/Cardiac Monitor Technician Program*** prepares students in 5-7.5 weeks for a career as an EKG technician. Students will master the essentials of cardiology as well as gain a CPR certification.

<https://larockacademy.com/ekg-cardiac-monitor-technician/>

MED/CERT TRAINING CENTER *(Cleveland)*

This ***EKG / Cardiac Monitor Technician Certificate*** Program can be completed in 5 weeks with varied schedules. This in-person course covers anatomy of the heart, performing EKGs, and how to interpret heart rhythms.

<https://mymedcert.com/EKG/>

POLARIS CAREER CENTER *(Middleburg Hts.)*

Cardiographic Technician with 244 hours (17 weeks). This program includes 100 hours unpaid externship.

Certifications:

- Certified EKG Technician (CET)
- AHA Healthcare Provider CPR

www.polaris.edu/o/pcc/page/cardiographic-technician

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

National Healthcare Association

www.nhanow.com/