

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 is \$67,260 (\$32.37/hour) as of May 2024

JOB OUTLOOK

3% (As fast as average) 2024-2034

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 procedures clearly. 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 & DEGREE PROGRAMS

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER (Brecksville)

A comprehensive 75-hour program preparing 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 the anatomy and physiology of the heart, medical disease processes, medical terminology, medical ethics and legal aspects of patient contact, and electrocardiography.

www.cvccworks.edu/adult-education/adult-education-programs/ekg-technician/

CERTIFICATE & DEGREE PROGRAMS *(continued)*

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY (online, Cleveland)

EKG Technician Certification

A two-to-four-month online program that covers conducting and interpreting electrocardiograms (EKGs), beginning with reviewing the anatomy and physiology of the heart.

csuohio.edu2.com/product/978/ekg-technician

LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Kirtland)

Electrocardiography Certificate/Area of Specialization

A five-credit-hour program providing students with the basic knowledge and skills to perform an electrocardiogram (ECG) and introducing basic cardiac arrhythmias and medications used to treat them.

catalog.lakelandcc.edu/degree-certificate-programs/hlth/3251/#programrequirementstext

LAROCK HEALTHCARE ACADEMY (Cleveland)

EKG/Cardiac Monitor Technician Program

The EKG/Cardiac Monitor Technician Program is a 58-clock-hour certificate program. It prepares students for a career as an EKG technician. The program includes cardiovascular terminology, anatomy and physiology, 12-lead EKG placement, equipment maintenance, and cardiac rhythm recognition. Completion time varies.

larockacademy.com/ekg-cardiac-monitor-technician/

MED/CERT TRAINING CENTER (Cleveland)

EKG/Cardiac Monitor Technician Certificate Program

This in-person program covers the anatomy of the heart, performing EKGs, and how to interpret heart rhythms, and can be completed in five weeks with varied schedules.

mymedcert.com/EKG/

POLARIS CAREER CENTER (Middleburg Hts.)

Cardiographic Technician Program

A 144-hour (17-week) program to prepare students to assist physicians with diagnosing and monitoring heart disease by teaching noninvasive cardiac testing procedures, like electrocardiograms, Holter and telemetry monitoring, and stress testing. Includes a 100-hour unpaid externship. Certifications include Certified EKG Technician (CET) and AHA Healthcare Provider CPR.

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

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION

www.nhanow.com/