

# CARDIOVASCULAR TECH

**Entry Level:** Associate's Degree

**\*Please note:** In order to obtain certification, you must be a graduate of a program specifically for cardiovascular technology and BYU does not offer a program like this. Please do additional research.

Cardiovascular technicians conduct tests on pulmonary or cardiovascular systems of patients for diagnostic purposes. They may conduct or assist in electrocardiograms, cardiac catheterizations, pulmonary functions, lung capacity, and similar tests.<sup>1</sup>

## **JOB REQUIREMENTS**

**What is the exact job title?**

- Cardiovascular Technician
- Cardiovascular Technologist
- Vascular Technologist

**How do I become one?**

- Earn an associates degree, possibly in cardiovascular technology.<sup>3</sup>
- Participate in an internship.<sup>3</sup>
- Obtain certification - most employers prefer certification through Cardiovascular Credentialing International.<sup>3</sup>

**What qualities do I need?**

- Ability to communicate effectively with patients.<sup>3</sup>
- Follow instructions and keep accurate records.<sup>3</sup>
- Know how to work ultrasound machines and other cardiovascular equipment.<sup>3</sup>

## **TYPICAL WORK DAY**

**What do they do?**

- Cardiovascular technicians use imaging machines and technology to diagnose and treat cardiac problems; this may include the heart and surrounding blood vessels. Technicians assist cardiologists, and specific duties may include answering patient questions, performing ultrasound procedures, recognizing abnormal images, inserting catheters, recording findings, and passing on results to physicians.<sup>3</sup>
- Vascular technologists perform non-invasive ultrasounds on a patient's blood vessels to check for abnormal blood flows in arteries and veins. Other duties may include monitoring heart rate and blood pressure, conducting stress and aerobic tests and even assisting with medical procedures/surgeries such as inserting a cardiac catheter into a patient's heart.<sup>4</sup>

**Where do they normally work?**

- Cardiovascular technologists and technicians work in hospitals, physician's offices, outpatient health care centers, medical/diagnostic laboratories and other health facilities.<sup>4</sup>

1<https://www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes292031.htm#nat>

2[https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Cardiovascular\\_Technologist/Hourly\\_Rate](https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Cardiovascular_Technologist/Hourly_Rate)

3[https://study.com/articles/How\\_to\\_Become\\_a\\_Registered\\_Cardiovascular\\_Technician.html](https://study.com/articles/How_to_Become_a_Registered_Cardiovascular_Technician.html)

4<https://www.ultrasound-schools.info/cardiovascular-technologist-career/>

5<https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/cardiovascular-technologist-technician/>

## What hours do they work?

- Technologists and technicians generally work a five-day, 40-hour week that may include weekends. Those in catheterization labs tend to work longer hours and may work evenings. They also may be on call during the night and on weekends.<sup>5</sup>

## BENEFITS

### What is a typical salary in this field?

- BLS: In May 2017, mean pay was \$27.52/hour or \$57,250/year.<sup>1</sup>
- Payscale: \$27.50/hour or \$57,411/year.<sup>2</sup>

### Does this job come with any benefits? (vision, dental, 401k, PTO, etc.)

- Medical: 82%<sup>2</sup>
- Vision: 67%<sup>2</sup>
- Dental: 74%<sup>2</sup>
- None: 17%<sup>2</sup>

## GROWTH

### What is the projected job growth?

- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cardiovascular technologist career outlook is high, with the demand for such professionals increasing by 17%.<sup>4</sup>

**Last Updated:** October 2019

<sup>1</sup><https://www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes292031.htm#nat>

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Cardiovascular\\_Technologist/Hourly\\_Rate](https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Cardiovascular_Technologist/Hourly_Rate)

<sup>3</sup>[https://study.com/articles/How\\_to\\_Become\\_a\\_Registered\\_Cardiovascular\\_Technician.html](https://study.com/articles/How_to_Become_a_Registered_Cardiovascular_Technician.html)

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<sup>5</sup><https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/cardiovascular-technologist-technician/>