

## Other Medical Technologists and Technicians (except dental health)

### Description

This unit group includes medical technologists and technicians not elsewhere classified, such as dietary technicians, pharmacy technicians, ocularists, prosthetists, orthotists, prosthetic technicians and orthotic technicians. Dietary technicians are employed in health care and commercial food service establishments such as hospitals, extended care facilities, nursing homes, schools, cafeterias and fast food outlets. Pharmacy technicians are employed in retail and hospital pharmacies, long-term care facilities and by pharmaceutical manufacturers. Ocularists are employed in custom ocular prosthetic laboratories, or they may be self-employed. Prosthetists, orthotists and prosthetic and orthotic technicians are employed in hospitals, clinics, prosthetics and orthotics laboratories, and prosthetic device manufacturing companies. Prosthetists and orthotists may also be self-employed.

### Duties:

- Dietary technicians:
  - Plan menus and diet for clients under the direction of a dietitian or nutritionist
  - Assist dietitians with research in food, nutrition and food service systems.
- Pharmacy technicians:
  - Assist pharmacists to maintain inventories of medications and prescription records of pharmaceutical products
  - Enter client information in databases and prepare medications for clients
- Ocularists:
  - Design, fabricate and fit ocular prostheses and conformers
  - Advise patients concerning the care and use of ocular prostheses
  - Repair and maintain fabrication and laboratory equipment
- Prosthetists and orthotists:
  - Design, fabricate and fit prosthetic and orthotic appliances such as artificial limbs, make and modify plaster casts
  - Interpret physicians' specifications and measure patients to develop sketches of appliances
  - Supervise and direct the activities of prosthetic and orthotic technicians.
- Prosthetic and orthotic technicians:
  - Assemble or build prosthetic and orthotic appliances using a variety of materials such as metals, plastics and leathers
  - Repair, rebuild and modify prosthetic and orthotic appliances or orthopaedic footwear

### Other titles:

- Aeromedical technician
- Artificial limb maker
- Dialysis technician
- Hemodialysis technologist
- Orthopedic mechanic

(Government of Canada National Occupation Classification)

## Skills

|                               |                    |                     |              |                  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Quality control and assurance | Physical dexterity | Communication       | Patience     | Physical stamina |
|                               | Problem solving    | Attention to detail | Organization |                  |

## Education/Training Requirements

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

- Most college/university programs in Ontario require an OSSD or Mature Student Status

Post-secondary diploma/degree

- Dietary technicians: two to three-year college program in dietary technology and supervised practical training.
- Pharmacy technicians: two to three-year college program in pharmaceuticals
- Ocularists: completion of American Society of Ocularists education program and supervised practical training, OR a five-year supervised practical training program under a certified ocularist.
- Prosthetists and orthotists: two-year college program in prosthetics and orthotics technology and three years of supervised practical training.
- Prosthetic and orthotic technicians: two to three-year college program in prosthetics and orthotics, and one to two years or supervised practical training, OR completion of secondary school and up to four years or supervised practical training under a certified prosthetist or orthotist

Certification

- Pharmacy technicians: registration with Ontario regulatory body
- Ocularists: certification by the National Examining Board of Ocularists
- Prosthetists and orthotists: certification by the Canadian Board of Certification of Prosthetists and Orthotists may be required
- Prosthetic and orthotic technicians: registration with the Canadian Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists may be required

## Potential Earnings in Durham Region

The average and median wages and salaries for individuals employed as other medical technologists and technicians are as follows. Place of Residence (POR) is defined as individuals who reside within the Durham Region. Place of Work (POW) is defined as individuals who are employed within the Durham Region.

| Median Wages and Salaries (POW) | Average Wages and Salaries (POW) | Median Wages and Salaries (POR) | Average Wages and Salaries (POR) |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| \$32,756                        | \$34,574                         | \$31,425                        | \$31,741                         |

## Employment Prospects

| Industry (NAICS)                                  | Jobs in Durham Region (POW) | Durham Region Residents Employed (POR) |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 3391 Medical equipment and supplies manufacturing | 10                          | 0                                      |
| 4461 Health and personal care stores              | 325                         | 340                                    |

(Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development 2016 data in Durham Workforce Authority's 2017 Health & BioScience Sector Report)

## Additional Resources

- American Society of Ocularists: <http://www.ocularist.org/>
- Ontario Association of Prosthetists & Orthotists: <http://oapo.org/>
- Orthotics Prosthetics Canada: <https://opcanada.ca/>