

# Drafting Technologists & Technicians

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



## Contents

1. Working as a Drafting Technologist / Technician .....	2
2. Skills, Education and Experience .....	5
3. Finding Jobs.....	7
4. Applying for a Job.....	9
5. Getting Help from Industry Sources .....	10

## 1. Working as a Drafting Technologist / [NOC 2021: 22212 / NOC 2016: 2253]

### *Job Description*

Drafting technologists and technicians prepare engineering designs, drawings and related technical information.

Working as a **Drafting technologist** your duties may include:

- Develop and prepare engineering designs and drawings
- Operate computer-assisted design (CAD) and drafting workstations
- Complete documentation packages and produce drawing sets
- Check and verify design drawings to conform to specifications and design data
- Write technical reports
- Prepare contracts and tender documents
- Prepare construction specifications, costs, and material estimates

Working as a **Drafting technician** your duties may include:

- Develop and prepare engineering drawings, plans, diagrams, or layouts
- Operate computer-assisted drafting (CAD) or a conventional drafting station

Source: WorkBC Career Profile for Drafting Technologist / Technician

<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers>

## Industry Overview

Approximately 3,950 people work in this occupation in BC. JobBank Canada reports that the employment outlook for drafting technologists and technicians will be very limited for the 2022-2024 period in British Columbia.

## Job Outlook in BC

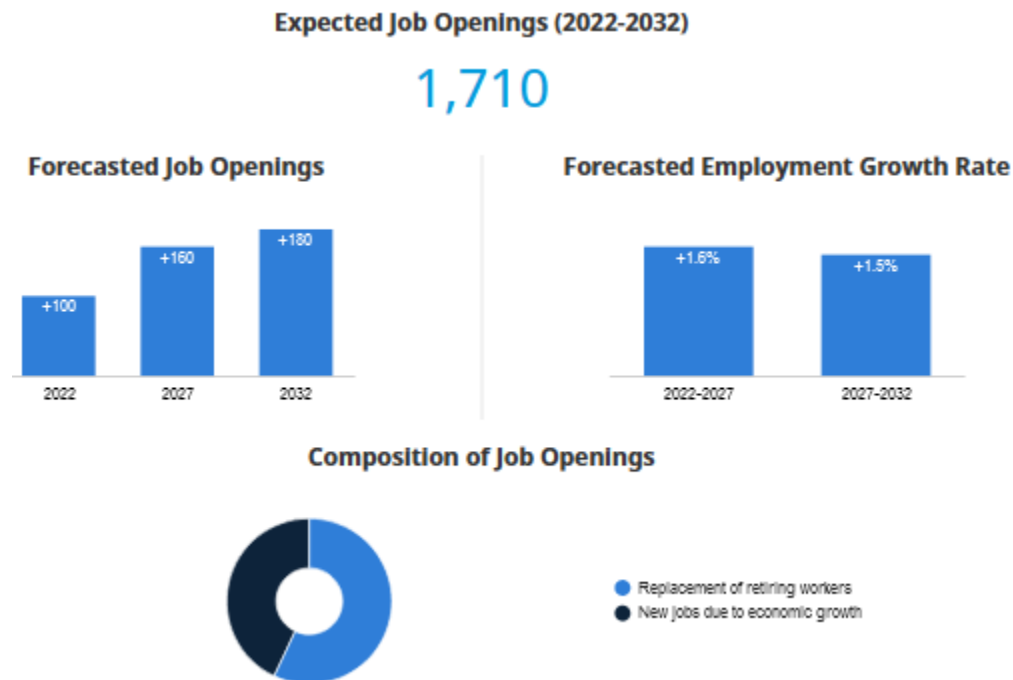


Chart from WorkBC

You can learn more about drafting technologists/technicians in BC from:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Drafting Technologist / Technician**  
<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers>
- **JobBank Canada Job Outlook for Drafting Technologist / Technician**  
<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-job-outlooks>
- **Career Cruising** – profile for 'Drafter'  
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

## **Types of Employers**

Drafting technologists and technicians are employed by architect firms, engineering firms, consulting and construction, utility, resource, and manufacturing companies, all levels of government, and by a wide range of other establishments.

## **Salary**

In BC, the median annual salary for drafting technologists and technicians is \$64,654. Drafters in senior and management positions can earn as much as \$100,000 a year in some Canadian locations.

In addition to a salary, drafters employed on full-time usually receive benefits such as health and dental coverage, paid vacations, and paid sick days. You may also receive contributions to a retirement pension plan.

Sources: WorkBC and Career Cruising

In BC regions you can expect to earn:

Community/Area	Low (\$/hour)	Median (\$/hour)	High (\$/hour)
<a href="#">British Columbia</a>	21.00	30.00	42.50
<a href="#">Lower Mainland–Southwest Region</a>	22.00	32.00	42.50
<a href="#">Thompson–Okanagan Region</a>	21.00	30.00	42.50
<a href="#">Vancouver Island and Coast Region</a>	21.00	30.00	42.50

Source: Job Bank Canada Wage Report <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

## **Working Hours**

Drafting technologists and technicians typically work regular hours, 7 or 8 hours a day, five days a week. However, you may be required to work longer hours to meet project deadlines.

## **2. Skills, Education and Experience**

### ***Skills***

- Mechanically inclined
- Able to visualize three-dimensional objects
- Artistic, Creative
- Knowledge of manufacturing or construction
- Works well in a team environment
- Oral communication and written skills

Source: Career Cruising

### ***Education and Experience***

#### ***Drafting technologists***

- Completion of a 2 to 3 year college program in engineering design and drafting technology or in a related field is usually required for drafting and design technologists

#### ***Drafting technicians***

- Completion of a 1 to 2 year college program in drafting  
**OR**
- Completion of a 3 to 4 year apprenticeship program in drafting. Apprenticeships combine paid on-the-job training and experience with in-class instruction  
**OR**
- Completion of 4 to 5 years of related experience plus completion of college or industry courses in drafting are usually required for drafting technicians.

### ***Qualifications***

***The profession is not regulated in British Columbia.***

Although certification is not mandatory it is often requested by employers. In British Columbia certification is carried out by the *Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)*. Professional designations granted by

ASTTBC include Applied Science Technologist (AScT) and Certified Technician (CTech). In BC, it is illegal to use these professional designations without being certified

**AScT and CTech certification requirements** include academic qualifications either as a technologist (diploma) or a technician (certificate) from a recognized academic institution. The applicant also requires a minimum of 2 years of related work experience, with at least 1 year at the level of registration and in a Canadian work environment.

- For more information see **ASTTBC**  
<https://asttbc.org/applicants/application-process/>

### ***Internationally Trained Drafting Technologists and Technicians***

Internationally trained professionals must undergo an evaluation of credentials and experience to determine if you meet the standards for certification in British Columbia. A minimum of 12 months of relevant experience in a Canadian work environment is required. If you have not completed the required work experience in Canada, you may be eligible for the trainee category of registration while you work to obtain the required work experience.

Further information on the certification process for internationally trained technologists and technicians:

- **Internationally Trained Professionals, ASTTBC**  
<https://asttbc.org/applicants/internationally-trained-professionals/>
- **Engineering Technology Canada**  
<https://www.engineeringtechnologycanada.ca/en>
- **Technology Professionals Canada**  
<http://www.cctt.ca/>
- **Canadian Information Center for International Credentials (CICIC) Drafting**  
[https://www.cicic.ca/921/find\\_an\\_occupational\\_profile.canada?search=2253](https://www.cicic.ca/921/find_an_occupational_profile.canada?search=2253)

### 3. Finding Jobs

You'll find job advertisements in local newspapers, trade journals, and electronic sources, as well as through professional associations' publications.

#### ***Local Newspapers***

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* & *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and in *The Province* on Sundays.

#### ***Online Job Postings***

- **Construction Job Centre**  
<https://www.constructionjobcentre.ca>
- **Indeed.com**  
[https://ca.indeed.com/advanced\\_search](https://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search)
- **TechJobs.ca**  
<https://www.techjobs.ca/en/>
- **BC JobConnect**  
<https://bcjobconnect.ca/> \*\*must have a permanent resident number\*\*  
newcomers can post their skills, education and work experience to BC employers looking for workers

#### ***Professional Associations' Career Resources***

- **Home Builders' Association Vancouver**  
<https://members.havan.ca/jobs> [subscribe to receive job posting notifications]
- **Independent Contractors & Businesses Association ICBA**  
<https://icba.ca/develop-your-people>
- **CTEN - Canadian Technical Employment Network**  
<https://www.oacett.org/careers>  
**Registration required to access this site.** Registration is free to members of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia or other provincial technology associations

## ***Identifying the Right Position***

When you browse job advertisements, you'll find a range of different job titles that are relevant.

### **For drafting technologists/technicians, look for these related job titles:**

- architectural draftsman
- computer-assisted drafting (CAD) technician / technologists
- design and drafting technologist
- draftsman
- electrical / electronic draftsman
- engineering design and drafting technologist

## ***Creating a List of Potential Employers***

You can use directories to produce lists of employers in Vancouver or the Lower Mainland. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Business in Vancouver Book of Lists. "Biggest Construction Companies"**. Available at the Central Library. 338.9711 B97b
- **British Columbia Construction Association Membership Directories**  
<https://bccassn.com/get-involved/become-a-member/#regional-associations>  
Find your regional construction association, then search the membership directory for that region
- **Canadian Construction Association Membership Directory**  
<https://www.cca-acc.com/membership/corporate-members-directory/>
- **Home Builders' Association Vancouver Membership Directory**  
<https://members.havan.ca/directory>
- **Canadian Home Builders Association, British Columbia**  
<https://chbabca.org/find-a-member/>
- **Reference Canada**  
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>



Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "drafting services" and click SEARCH. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

**NOTE:** *You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).*

## 4. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume or curriculum vitae and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your relevant experience.

Use the library catalogue, <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

To learn about applying for jobs in Canada, use the following guides which are available in print at the Central Library or online at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic/>.

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**  
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/writing-resumes-and-cover-letters>
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**  
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/getting-canadian-work-experience>
- **Networking for Employment**  
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/networking-for-employment>
- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**  
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/learn-more-about-working-in-bc-and-canada>

## 5. Getting Help from Industry Sources

### ***Industry Associations***

Associations for drafting technologists and technicians in BC and Canada provide information and assistance. Registration and fees are usually required for membership.

- **Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia**  
<https://asttbc.org/>
- **Technology Professionals Canada**  
<http://www.technologyprofessionals.ca/>
- **BC Construction Association – Workforce Programs**  
<https://bccassn.com/skilled-workforce/>

### ***Industry Journals***

Search the Vancouver Public Library catalogue for journals related to your profession. Examples include:

- **Construction Canada**  
Available online at: <https://www.constructioncanada.net/>
- **Journal of Commerce** by ConstructConnect (Western Canada’s construction newspaper)  
Available at Central Library, 338.47 J86Bu and online at:  
<https://canada.constructconnect.com/joc>

**Questions? Please ask the Information Staff in the Central Library, Vancouver Public Library or telephone 604-331-3603.**

*Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic/>*