

# EKG (Electrocardiogram) Technician



## What do they do?

EKG Technicians perform electrocardiograms which is a test that monitors the heartbeat of a patient. The test requires the EKG Technician to place electrodes on the patient's body. The EKG Technician is responsible for operating the EKG machine and monitoring the patient during the procedure.

## Where do they work?

EKG Technicians work in clinics and hospitals. EKG Technicians can also work in diagnostic laboratories. They spend most of their time working on their feet.

## Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for EKG Technicians is \$67,080.



## Education:

A high school diploma is required to become an EKG Technician. Many EKG Technicians have an associate degree or have completed an EKG training program. On the job training is also a common option to become an EKG Technician. It is preferred that all EKG Technicians are certified.

## EKG Technician training in Madison:

Madison Area Technical College: [www.madisoncollege.edu](http://www.madisoncollege.edu)

High School students interested in becoming an EKG Technician should take classes in biology, anatomy & physiology, physics, math, health and social sciences.

## Accreditation:

Education programs for EKG Technicians are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Professionals (CAAHEP).

[www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)



## Professional Associations:

EKG Technicians can choose to join the following professional associations.

National Healthcare Workers Association:

[www.nationalhealthcareworkersassociation.com](http://www.nationalhealthcareworkersassociation.com)



American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians:

[www.aspt.org](http://www.aspt.org)



## Certification:

After completion of an EKG Technician program or on-the-job training an EKG Technician certification exam can be taken. The exam is often a two part exam that consists of a multiple choice section and a clinical skills section.

EKG Technician certification exams can be taken through various organizations:

National Certification Career Association:

[www.nccanow.com/ekg\\_technician\\_certificaion.html](http://www.nccanow.com/ekg_technician_certificaion.html)



National Health Career Association:

[www.nhanow.com/certifications/ekg-technician](http://www.nhanow.com/certifications/ekg-technician)



## Important Skills:

- Attention to detail
- Communication
- Technology skills
- Compassion for patients
- Active listening skills



## Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for EKG Technicians is expected to grow 17 percent between 2016-2026, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2017-18 Edition*, Diagnostic Medical Sonographers and Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians, Including Vascular Technologists,  
[www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/diagnostic-medical-sonographers.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/diagnostic-medical-sonographers.htm)

