

Perfusion Technologist



What do they do?

A Perfusion Technologist works with the medical surgical team during heart and lung surgeries. A Perfusion Technologist is responsible for working the heart-lung (Cardiopulmonary bypass) machine that keeps the blood flowing through a patient's body oxygenated without going through the heart so that the heart can remain still during surgery. Perfusion Technologists also are responsible for testing blood count levels and monitoring the patients blood circulation during surgery.

Where do they work?

Most Perfusion Technologists work in hospitals in surgery units. Some are hired by individual surgeons or by perfusion companies.

Pay:

The average yearly income for Perfusion Technologists is \$75,000.



Education:

A bachelor's degree is required to attend a perfusionist training program. Post-baccalaureate perfusion training programs range from 1 to 2 years resulting in perfusion technology certificates or master's degrees in perfusion sciences. To become a Certified Clinical Perfusionist a two-part exam is required.

Post-Baccalaureate programs in Wisconsin:

Milwaukee School of Engineering: www.msoe.edu

High School students interested in becoming a Perfusion Technologist should take classes in biology, chemistry, anatomy & physiology, and health.

Accreditation:

Education programs for Perfusion Technologists are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs:

<http://www.caahep.org/>



Professional Associations:

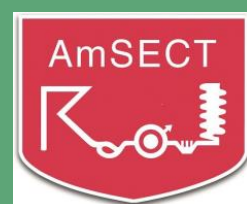
Perfusion Technologists can choose to join the following professional associations:

American Society of Extracorporeal Technology (AmSECT)

www.amsect.org

American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion (AACP)

www.theaacp.com



Certification:

Graduates of an accredited Perfusion Technologist program must pass two exams before they can work as a Perfusion Technologist.

The American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion certification examination measures the candidate's knowledge on multiple levels. This exam is a two part exam that covers perfusion basic sciences and clinical applications. All Perfusion Technologists must recertify yearly.

https://abcp.org/certification_.htm



Important Skills:

- Ability to adapt to new technologies
- Flexibility to handle increasing changes in the perfusion technologist role
- Ability to work under high pressure situations
- Detail oriented
- Teamwork skills
- Communication skill

Opportunities for Advancement:

With additional training and working experience a Perfusion Technologist could choose to advance into the following areas:

- Supervisor, management, or administration
- Perfusion education
- Cardiac research
- Equipment sales, marketing, or development



Job Outlook:

The field of Perfusion Technology is expanding as the role begins to include surgical and non-surgical specialties. Employment for Perfusion Technologists is expected to grow 25 percent between 2010-2020, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

