

# WHAT WORK CAN YOU PURSUE WITH AN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY DEGREE?

If you have some tech skills under your belt and prefer a more hands-on experience, you may find that engineering technology is the field for you. But what's the difference between engineering technology and engineering? There is an overlap between the two fields, with both careers using science and math to solve real-world problems.

However, many distinct differences set engineering and engineering technology apart. Engineering programs will generally have higher-level math and theoretical science curricula, while engineering technology programs prioritize hands-on laboratory skills.

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ENGINEERING TECH AND ENGINEERING DEGREES

Engineering programs focus more on theories and advanced concepts. An engineer's job is more theoretical and requires scientific and mathematical knowledge. It will usually involve the design of new products. Engineers may work in research and development, may create new products and processes or work in projects related to process management. Those who graduate from engineering programs may consider pursuing graduate school to further hone their interests.

Engineering technology programs focus on the application and implementation of ideas and emphasize hands-on learning. Engineering technology graduates may pursue such roles as engineering technicians if they've earned an associate degree or engineering technologists if they earned a bachelor's degree.



Engineering technologists must have extensive knowledge of the equipment and materials needed to design, create, operate and maintain technical products. Generally, they may estimate project costs and suggest ways to improve productivity. For example, they may perform computer analysis or collect data.

## DEMAND FOR ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

If they have the proper education and skills, engineering technicians, like engineers, will be in demand across various growing industries across the U.S. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), industries employing the most engineering technicians include the federal government, scientific research and development and employment services. There were approximately 76,630 engineering technicians employed in the U.S. in 2017.<sup>1</sup>

Different fields of engineering technology will experience varying rates of job growth and demand. According to the BLS, the overall growth rate is 3.6% for engineering technologists and technicians (except drafters) 2019 to 2029.<sup>2</sup>



## WHAT JOBS CAN I PURSUE AFTER GRADUATION?

Engineering projects will usually need engineering technologists/technicians. Graduates can typically pursue engineering technology jobs in the four main branches of engineering (chemical, civil, electrical and mechanical) and smaller branches (aerospace, agricultural, biomedical, computer, environmental, nano and vehicular).

Here are examples of the types of jobs engineering technology graduates may be qualified to pursue:

- Electronics Technician
- Computer Technician
- Field Engineer
- Machinist
- Quality Engineer
- Project Engineer
- Sales Engineer

## NEXT STEP: EXPLORE AN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Engineering technology can be a good career option for those who want to enter or expand their options in the engineering field, and pursue hands-on technical work in their industry. Students may want to select a post-secondary institution and program that is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). DeVry University's Bachelor of Engineering Technology (BET) degree program meets ABET's rigorous standards.

## WHAT INDUSTRIES CAN I WORK IN?

Engineering technology graduates can prepare to pursue entry-level positions as technicians or technologists. Individuals who study two-year programs may be interested in pursuing roles as technicians and those who study four-year programs may be interested in pursuing roles as technologists.

According to the BLS, electronics engineering technicians work closely with electrical engineers and work primarily in manufacturing settings, engineering services, the federal government, research-and-development laboratories, and the utilities industry.<sup>3</sup>

The industries they may find work in include but are not limited to:

- Medical Technology and Healthcare System
- Renewable Energy
- Machine Learning and Design Techniques
- Sustainable Power
- Nanotechnology
- Product Design

## Thinking About Furthering Your Education?

To learn more about relevant programs of study at DeVry University or its Keller Graduate School of Management, [click here](#).

Through an education partnership in conjunction with DeVry University, you have access to education benefits in support of your professional and life goals. To learn about transferring qualifying credits, tuition rate savings and more, contact your benefits manager or HR department for more details.



<sup>1</sup><https://www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes173029.htm>

<sup>2</sup><https://data.bls.gov/projections/nationalMatrix?queryParams=541710&ioType=i>  
Growth projected on a national level. Local growth may vary.

<sup>3</sup><https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/electrical-and-electronics-engineering-technicians.htm>

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