

Glossary of Terms

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

Technician/Technologist in Training (T.T.): Members in this category are usually working towards full certification. T.T. members are graduates of an accredited training program (or equivalent) but typically have less than two years experience in their discipline of graduation.

Certified Technician (C.Tech.): Meets the minimum national standards for certification as a technician; graduation of an accredited two- or three-year program (or equivalent) plus two years technician experience, three professional references and a professional practice examination covering ethics and Alberta law.

Certified Technologist (C.E.T.): Meets the minimum national standards for certification as a technologist; graduation of an accredited two or three-year program (or equivalent) plus two years of acceptable technologist experience, three professional references and a professional practice examination covering ethics and Alberta law.

Registered Engineering Technologist (R.E.T.): Meets the minimum standards (Alberta only) for registration; prior C.E.T. certification, plus four years of senior-level work experience within an engineering team, plus three professional references and a three-hour professional practice examination. Note: The R.E.T. designation is no longer offered by ASET.

Professional Technologist (P.Tech.): Meets the minimum standards (Alberta only) for registration; prior C.E.T. certification, plus six years of experience in areas that relate to engineering or geoscience, at least two years of which are in the technologist's proposed scope of practice, three professional references and successful completion of a three part professional practice exam.

EMPLOYMENT LEVEL

These categories reflect the typical progression of technician and technologist careers. Although these categories often overlap, members were asked to select the one that most accurately reflects their current situation.

Junior: Typically includes entry-level positions, by most accounts less than five years experience. Likely recently certified. Could be developing skill levels in a different discipline than the one certified in.

Intermediate: Experienced with solid working knowledge of their industry. Could have some responsibility for technical projects and/or project budgets. Could be consultant/contract worker. Typically five to fifteen years experience.

Specialist/Team Leader: Highly experienced with full knowledge of their industry. Could be consulting or teaching specialized technology. Could be in charge of project personnel and budgets. Could be supervising staff and/or contractors. Often manages complex technical projects.

Senior/Manager: Could hold full responsibility for overall department and/or corporate activities including such areas as financial reporting, human resource management, shareholder relations, etc. Could be highly specialized consultant identified throughout the industry as an expert. Could be providing expertise to employers/clients on a worldwide basis. Typically assigns and controls projects. Typically has more management responsibility and less direct technical involvement.

DISCIPLINE

The principal discipline in which a member normally works. If self-employed, then the principal discipline in which the firm operates. This does not necessarily coincide with specific disciplines of training or certification; it refers to the nature of the work rather than the industry in which the work is done.

INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT

Members were asked to select from this list of 10 industry categories:

1. Advancement of Knowledge/Technology: Research, educators.
2. Agriculture and Food: Includes machine design, testing and manufacturing.
3. Commercial Services: Sanitary engineering, waste, waste management and recycling.
4. Construction: Building-related, includes architectural, building operations.
5. Energy: Oil, gas and coal, nuclear, alternative energy, geology.
6. Environment: Climate and atmosphere, inland waters, land and solid earth, wildlife management, biosciences.
7. Information and Communication Services: Includes development or consulting in information technology services, computer hardware or software, robotics, electronics, biotechnologies.
8. Manufacturing and Processing: (Durables and non-durables) Includes machinery, equipment, tools, furniture and products from wood, concrete, steel or plastic; rubber, leather, textiles, pharmaceutical, chemicals, paints, pulp and paper, etc.
9. Natural Resources Development: Includes exploration and extraction of oil, gas, minerals, etc.
10. Transportation Systems & Services: Includes rail and road systems.

ORGANIZATION TYPE

Members were asked to indicate the type of organization they were employed at.

REGION OF EMPLOYMENT

The principal location where the major portion of work was done.

YEARS OF TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

Total years of experience in related field of employment. Does not include experience in non-related fields. Those respondents with less than one year experience are recorded in this survey as '0 years experience'.

TOTAL AVERAGE INCOME

Figures reported in this column are not cumulative totals of the three figures of average base, average overtime and average bonus salaries; rather they represent the average total income of everyone in the category, whether they reported overtime and/or bonus income or not.

OVERTIME AND BONUS INCOME

Figures reported in these columns represent the average overtime and/or bonus income of only members who reported receiving overtime or bonus incomes.

BENEFIT PLANS

Includes those plans that are either paid by employer or cost-shared with employee.