

Biomedical Equipment Technician

■ Job Description

A biomedical equipment technician (BMET) handles the installation, operation, repair, maintenance, and calibration of electronic equipment. The technician demonstrates the use of equipment to other staff and to health science students. Occasionally, the BMET is called on in emergency situations to monitor the functioning of equipment, or is asked to design a new piece of equipment for an unusual case.

■ Job Settings

Hospitals, medical equipment manufacturers, supply houses, and the government

■ Projected Need

Both nationally and in Illinois, employment of biomedical equipment technicians is expected to grow about as fast as average through 2010. The increasing concern over cost containment by hospital administrators should spur employment of biomedical equipment technicians. Their preventive maintenance of equipment, as well as their ability to relieve engineers and administrators of routine tasks, will aid in controlling costs. Opportunities will be best for graduates of postsecondary biomedical equipment technology programs.

In Illinois, there were about 1,190 people employed in this very small occupation in 2000.

■ Salaries

Wages vary in different institutions and locations and according to the experience, training, certification and type of work done by the technician. In general, biomedical equipment technicians who work for manufacturers have higher wages than those who work for hospitals.

Nationally, the median wage is \$17.09 per hour. Half of all biomedical equipment technicians earn between \$12.79 and \$22.17 per hour.

In Illinois, biomedical equipment technicians earn a median wage of \$18.59 per hour. Wages range from \$12.55 per hour for beginning technicians to \$22.37 per hour for those with experience.

■ Related Careers

Someone who enjoys running diagnostic machinery rather than maintaining it might wish to consider careers such as EEG or EKG technician, radiologic technologist, sonographer, and perfusionist (cardiopulmonary technician). Vocational rehabilitation therapy involves teaching patients to use common machinery. A career as a dental lab technician, optical technician, or orthotist/prosthetist involves using machinery to make restorations, lenses, or braces and artificial limbs.

■ Differences in Training

Biomedical equipment technicians require postsecondary education, usually a two-year program leading to an associate's degree.

The following community colleges in Illinois offer biomedical electronics technology programs:

Richland Community College - Decatur
South Suburban College - South Holland

■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/login.asp>

[Biomedical Technology](#)

■ Credentials

The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation offers the Certified Biomedical Equipment Technician (CBET) credential. Applicants for certification must meet education and/or work experience requirements and pass a written exam. Voluntary professional certification can be important for hiring and advancement.

■ Advanced Training

Education at the bachelor's, master's, or doctoral level in biomedical engineering can lead to a position as a

biomedical engineer. Jobs are available in health care institutions, teaching, and research.

■ **Resources**

Association for the Advancement of Medical
Instrumentation

1110 North Glebe Rd., Suite 220

Arlington, VA 22201-4795

Phone: 800.332.2264

<http://www.aami.org>

Click on “Career Center” in the left side bar.