

Electroneurodiagnostic (END) Technologist

■ Job Description

Electroneurodiagnostic technologists operate specialized equipment which measures and records electrical activity of the brain and nervous system. The data is interpreted by a neurologist (a doctor who specializes in the brain and nervous system) and used to assist physicians in the diagnosis and monitoring of patients with disorders such as epilepsy, stroke, infectious diseases of the nervous system (encephalitis), degenerative diseases (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's), head trauma from accidents, brain tumors, and brain death.

Electroneurodiagnostic technologists are responsible for taking medical histories; preparing patients for the test; applying electrodes to the patient's head with adhesive; and making notes on the recorded graph to identify interference such as poor electrode contact or patient movement. They prepare a written report of the tracings for the physician; monitor the patient during the procedure, and maintain the diagnostic equipment to ensure accurate testing and diagnosis.

Electroneurodiagnostic technologists may be specialized in four commonly performed neurodiagnostic procedures:

- (1) electroencephalograph – a recording of the electrical activity of the brain waves on a graph
- (2) polysomnogram – a procedure which uses an electroencephalogram and other physiologic measures to identify dysfunction during sleep
- (3) nerve conduction studies – a recording of electrical potentials from nerves
- (4) evoked potential – an electrical response of the nervous system to specific stimuli used to assess function

■ Job Settings

Neurology departments of hospitals, clinics of neurologists and neurosurgeons, and other medical facilities

■ Projected Need

Faster than average growth in the employment of END technologists is expected nationwide. Demand for technologists will increase as the number of neurodiagnostic tests being performed increase. Most job openings will be found in hospitals, however opportunities will also be good in offices and clinics of neurologists. Individuals who have formal education and training will have the best opportunities.

■ Salaries

According to the American Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists, salaries average \$37,853 per year. Beginning technologists earn \$25,000 per year. Salaries for registered technologists tend to be higher than non-registered technologists with equivalent experience.

■ Related Careers

EEG and EKG technicians, surgical technician, nurse, radiologic technologist, and sonographer

■ Differences in Training

High school graduates can learn their skills through on-the-job training; however, employers increasingly prefer those who have completed formal training programs. Hospitals and community colleges offer formal training programs that last from one to two years and award a certificate or associate's degree. The curriculum includes neurology, neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, medical terminology, computer technology, electronics, instrumentation, and clinical practicum.

Black Hawk College in Moline and St. John's Hospital in Springfield offer associate degree and certificate programs in electroneurodiagnostic technology.

Parkland College in Champaign and Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills offer certificate programs in polysomnography technology.

■ 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/> You must log into CIS prior to clicking on the links below.

[Electroneurodiagnostic Technology](#)

■ **Credentials**

The American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential Technologists (ABRET) awards the credentials Registered EEG Technologist (REEGT) and Registered Evoked Potential Technologist (REPT) to qualified applicants. The exam for Polysomnography (PSG) or Sleep Studies is given by the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists. The credential awarded is RPSGT.

■ **Resources**

American Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists
426 W. 42nd Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Phone: 816.931.1120
E-mail: info@aset.org
<http://www.aset.org>

One \$300 scholarship is available for each of the training courses offered by the society. Also, four \$500 scholarships are available for the Scientific Program and courses held at the annual convention. Applicants must be members of the society for the preceding calendar year.

American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential Technologists
1904 Croydon Dr.
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: 217.553.3758
E-mail: abreted@aol.com
<http://www.abret.com>

Association of Polysomnographic Technologists
P.O. Box 14861
Lenexa, KS 66285-4861
Phone: 913.541.1991
<http://www.aptweb.org>