

Electronics Technologies Offer Exciting and Lucrative Career Opportunities

Changes in technology brought about over the last decade have resulted in an extraordinary demand for skilled personnel in a wide range of positions that most people don't even know exist. In today's competitive job market, professional certifications can provide validation of industry-specific knowledge and may be a key factor to increased employment opportunities along with higher pay.



An electronics career will take you to new heights!



George Lister, CETma from TX stands atop a tower while on the job.

Of all the hiring and recruiting activity that occurred on LinkedIn in 2015, electronics technologies ranked as one of the top 25 in-demand technical skills.¹ The nation's primary source of occupational information in the research for the U.S. Department of Labor's (USDOL) database, Occupational Information Network (O*NET), designates electronics technologies as a 'Bright Outlook' occupation, meaning that the jobs in this industry are growing more rapidly than others.

It also gives electronics technologies the 'Green' designation, since many of the careers in the electronics industry are emerging because of green environmental trends.²



What kinds of careers are available in electronics?

Electronics careers are diverse and go well beyond basic electronics. Electronics professionals design, install or repair a variety of electrical equipment used in communications, fiber optics, information technology, renewable energy, smart home, and many other industries. Some occupational titles include:

- Biomedical Electronics Technician
- Computer Service Technician
- Data Cabling Installer
- Security Networking Technician
- Fiber Optic Installer
- Industrial Electronics Technician
- Mobile Communications Installer
- Network Systems Technician
- Photovoltaic (solar panel) Installer
- Small Wind Installer
- Telecommunications Technician
- General Communications Technician

Find your new career using ETA's Career Resource Center

ETA's Career Resource Center offers employers and job seekers a way to connect professionals with the most in-demand careers available. Whether you are looking for a new job or are ready to take the next step in your career, ETA's FREE Career Resource Center has what you need. Recruiters from many well-known companies search ETA's bank of well-qualified, certified candidates to fill jobs in all electronics-related industries.



Where can beginners as well as career professionals get electronics training and certification?

There are several online and self-study training courses in all sorts of electronics careers. Many technical certifications require students to receive hands-on instruction by approved schools or training providers to validate both knowledge and hands-on skills to be successful in today's industry. In order to offer ETA certifications with a hands-on component, schools and trainers must have a valid course approval for the program. Submit an application for course approval at https://www.eta-i.org/course_approval_application.html.

The Growth of Electronics Careers

BY THE NUMBERS

78

*1 out of every 78
new jobs created
since 2013 has been
in the solar field*

208,000

*People employed in the solar (photovoltaic)
industry currently*

11K

*Jobs in Industrial Elec-
tronics projected to open
between 2014 and 2024*

\$77K

*Median annual wage for Network and Computer
Systems Administrators*

\$53,900:

*Median annual wage of electronics
installers and repairers*

ETA: An Association for YOU

Plugging into an industry's community provides links with other people entering the profession along with industry practitioners to share experiences and make career connections. There are associations for nearly every profession or area of interest and many have national, state and regional chapters available to join. Associations sponsor numerous events throughout the year that foster connection with peers. Mentoring is the cornerstone of many professional associations when it comes to working with younger members. They also keep members up to date on industry trends and how to deal with them.

For example, ETA offers one student and one Veteran scholarship each year to attend ETA's Education Forum, co-located with Penton's International Wireless Communications Expo, the premier annual event for communications technology professionals. ETA hosts industry training leading to ETA certification and networking opportunities with industry leaders, all at absolutely no cost.

"While I entered the [IWCE] conference with the intention to become a systems engineer, I've now discovered even more opportunities and careers I could choose from within wireless communications and I look forward to my continued education and eventual career within the field."

-Kelly Krenek, the 2015 ETA Scholarship winner, on her trip to the IWCE convention in Las Vegas, provided by ETA



Why you should choose an ETA certification

Aligning with the ISO 17024 Standard, ETA certifications test the knowledge and hands-on skills needed in today's electronics industry and are accredited by the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC). To date, ETA has issued over 160,000 technical certifications in a variety of electronics technology fields.

Employers worldwide choose ETA-certified professionals because of ETA's certification programs' competency criteria and testing benchmarks that conform to the highest international electronics standards. ETA-certified professionals work for some of the most widely-known companies.

Who Employs ETA Certification Holders?

AT&T - Motorola - Canon - Caterpillar - Google - Home Depot - Kmart - Lockheed Martin - Ford Motor Company - Budweiser - ADT Security - American Airlines - AutoZone - Boeing - Raytheon - State Farm - TD Ameritrade - Verizon Telecommunications - Quest Communications - Dick's Sporting Goods - DirecTV - Crest - Ericsson - Goodyear - Honeywell - NBC Universal - Comcast - Red Robin - Staples - Target - Tim Hortons - United States Military - United Airlines - Univision - Walmart - Xfinity - Xerox - Japanese Navy - Walt Disney World Inc - Bearcom - Wyoming Department of Transportation - Staley Technologies - Toronto Police Services - Marathon Oil Co - U.S. Department of Justice - City of Los Angeles - Canyon State Wireless - Ball State University - Baycom - NASA - MobilComm Inc - Sierra Electronics - University of California Santa Barbara - TDS Telecom - State of Michigan - Wind River Casino - Ohio State University - Jet Blue - John Deere - Hankey's Radio Inc - Jewelry Television - Canadian National Railway - Abacus Technologies - ADI Global - Qualcomm Inc - Purdue University - MobilComm Inc - Georgia Tech Research Institute - City of Memphis - Denali National Park - more

Self-learning provides flexibility

Most occupations in this industry require previous Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) courses. Many of the jobs in electronics are attainable through apprenticeships, on-the-job training and vocational programs offered at community colleges. They don't require expensive, four-year degrees for which many students are not suited. Entry-level jobs often require professional certification, and can be achieved through such organizations as ETA® (ETA) International. According to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), competency-based learning systems lead to better outcomes because the pace of learning is customized.³

By enabling students to master skills at their own pace, competency-based learning systems create multiple pathways to graduation. Today, with many governmental agencies (at all levels) looking to validate their educational processes, the need for recognition has become a mandate. Some states now use ETA certification as third-party final exam for electronics students, but the process is not yet complete. School



systems are requiring educational institutions to prove that their training actually is giving the student his or her money's worth. They want proof that the time and money spent in learning will pay off with a good career. The Federal government is no different.

ETA is committed to working with the government to ensure their certi-

fications match the updated skills and knowledge needed to excel in various military, government and civilian positions. Under the G.I. Bill, the Veteran's Administration can now reimburse service members or an eligible child or spouse for many of the expenses for taking one of ETA's approved certifications.

Employers prefer certified job candidates

When employers interview job candidates, the competition can often be very stiff. Certification is frequently the deciding factor when one candidate is certified and the other is not, offering a distinct advantage. A certified professional often appears more dedicated, more skilled and thus more attractive to prospective employers, and can help one advance in their chosen career. Certification enables employers to better evaluate the potential candidates' talents and skills and takes a lot of the

guess work out of the hiring process.

Not only can certification get one's foot in the door, but it can also enable employees to make more money as well as advance into positions of greater responsibility. Some employers often require certification as a condition of employment. Job interviewers look for continuous learners and professional certification often requires the certification holder to maintain a certain number of continuing education credits to stay current in their chosen industry.

Certifications are portable credentials awarded to individuals once they have proven a level of mastery of core competencies for a specific set of skills. By obtaining a professional certification, students gain a level of confidence in their own abilities, allowing students to enter the workforce immediately with a proven skill set or continue on to college. This confidence and the options certification creates give certified students the tools to put together a serious plan for their career path.

1. Source: LinkedIn Official Blog, Sohan Murthy 1/12/16

2. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics 2014 wage data external site and 2014-2024 employment projections external site. 'Projected growth' represents the estimated change in total employment over the projections period (2014-2024).

3. Source: U.S. Department of Education, <http://www.ed.gov/oii-news/competency-based-learning-or-personalized-learning>

4. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition, Electrical and Electronics Installers and Repairers, on the Internet at [http://www.bls.gov/ooh/installation-](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/installation-maintenance-and-repair/electrical-and-electronics-installers-and-repairers.htm)

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5. Source: U.S. Department of Labor's (USDOL) database, Occupational Information Network (O*NET) <http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-9052.00>

6. Source: U.S. Department of Labor's (USDOL) database, Occupational Information Network (O*NET) <http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/47-2231.00>

7. Source: http://www.eta-i.org/pr/Salary_Survey_Indicates_Promising_Future_in_Electronics_Careers.pdf