

Electroneurodiagnostic Technologist

Electroneurodiagnostics is the allied health care profession centered around recording, monitoring, and analyzing nervous system function to promote the effective treatment of pathologic conditions.

Electroneurodiagnostic (END) professionals:

- are credentialed;
- have met a minimum education level and related educational and performance standards;
- meet continuing education requirements;
- perform within a code of ethics and defined scope of practice;
- are recognized by physicians, employers, the public, governmental agencies, payers, and other health care professionals;
- form a national society whose activities include lobbying for the profession; and
- contribute to the advancement of knowledge in neuroscience.



History

The AMA's involvement in the evaluation and accreditation of educational programs in electroencephalographic (EEG) technology began in 1972 with the AMA's recognition of EEG technology as an allied health profession. Subsequently, AMA staff worked with representatives of the professional organizations representing this clinical discipline (including the American EEG Society, the American Medical EEG Association, and the American Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists [then the American Society of EEG Technologists]) to develop the *Standards (Essentials) of an Accredited Educational Program for the Electroencephalographic Technologist*

In 1987, evoked potential (EP) techniques were included in *Standards* for programs desiring recognition in both EEG and EP techniques. In 1995, polysomnography (PSG) techniques were included for programs desiring recognition in EEG, EP, and PSG techniques. In 2008, Intraoperative Neuromonitoring (IONM), Long Term Monitoring (LTM), and Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) techniques were included in the *Standards* for programs desiring recognition in IONM, LTM and NCS. The *Standards*, which were revised most recently in 2008, include a companion document of graduate competencies required for an END program and EP, IONM, LTM, NCS, and PSG add-ons.



Career Description

Technologists record electrical activity from the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves, and somatosensory or motor nerve systems using a variety of techniques and instruments. Technologists prepare data and documentation for interpretation by a physician. Considerable individual initiative, reasoning skill, and sound judgment are all expected of the electroneurodiagnostic professional. The most common electroneurodiagnostic procedures include:

- Electroencephalogram (EEG)
- Intraoperative Neuromonitoring (IONM)
- Long Term Monitoring (LTM)
- Polysomnogram (PSG)
- Evoked Potential (EP)
- Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS)



Employment Characteristics

END personnel work primarily in neurology-related departments of hospitals, but many also work in clinics and the private offices of neurologists and neurosurgeons. Growth in employment within the profession is expected to be greater than average, owing to the increased use of EEG and EP techniques in surgery; in diagnosing and monitoring patients with epilepsy; and in diagnosing sleep disorders. Technologists generally work a 40-hour week, but may work 12-hour days for sleep studies and be on-call for emergencies and intraoperative monitoring.



Salary

According to the American Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists, Inc (ASET), 2006 entry-level salaries average \$35,610. For more information, go to www.ama-assn.org/go/hpsalary.



Educational Programs

Length. Programs may be 12 to 24 months, and are typically integrated into a community college-sponsored program leading to an associate degree.

Prerequisites. High school diploma or equivalent.

Curriculum. The curriculum includes anatomy, physiology, and neuroanatomy (with major emphasis on the brain), as well as instrumentation, personal and patient safety, recording techniques, clinical electroneurodiagnostics, and correlations. Clinical rotations are conducted in medical centers.



Certification/Registration

The American Board of Registration of EEG and EP Technologists (ABRET) offers four credentials in END:

- R EEG T (Registered EEG Technologist)
- R EP T (Registered Evoked Potential Technologist)
- CNIM (Certification in Neurophysiologic Intraoperative Monitoring)
- CLTM (Certification in Long Term Monitoring)

In addition, American Association of Electrodiagnostic Technologists (AAET) offers the R NCS T credential (Registered Nerve Conduction Studies Technologist), and the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists (BRPT) offers the RPSGT credential (Registered Polysomnographic Technologist).



Inquiries

Careers

American Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists, Inc
6501 East Commerce Avenue, Suite 120
Kansas City, MO 64120
(816) 931-1120
E-mail: info@aset.org
www.aset.org

Electroneurodiagnostic Technologist

Certification/Registration (Credentials R EEG T, R EP T, CNIM, CLTM)

American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential Technologists (ABRET)
2509 West Iles Avenue, Suite 102
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 726-7980
E-mail: abreteo@att.net
www.abret.org

Certification/Registration (Credentials R NCS T)

American Association of Electrodiagnostic Technologists (AAET)
PO Box 6823
Mobile, AL 36606
(877) 333-2238
E-mail: aaet@aaet.info
www.aaet.info

Certification/Registration (Credentials RPSGT)

The Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists (BRPT)
8400 Westpark Drive, Second Floor
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 610-9020
E-mail: info@brpt.org
www.brpt.org
