

Occupational Health and Safety Specialists and Technicians

SOC: 19-5000 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$78,900

Median Salary

163,700

Employment

+12.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: See Requirements (BLS)

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

7.5/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	6.2/10	Investigative	9.4/10
Artistic	5.6/10	Social	6.4/10
Enterprising	4.8/10	Conventional	6.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Detail oriented, Physical stamina, Problem-solving skills, Technology skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Occupational Health and Safety Specialists and Technicians develop, implement, and monitor **workplace safety programs and procedures**. They identify hazards, conduct inspections, and ensure compliance with health and safety regulations. Their work is critical in protecting employees, preventing accidents, and promoting safe working environments.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy problem-solving, analyzing risks, and improving workplace safety.

What Do Occupational Health and Safety Specialists and Technicians Do?

These professionals evaluate workplace conditions, recommend safety improvements, and enforce safety regulations.

Common responsibilities include:

- Conducting workplace inspections and safety audits
- Identifying hazards and assessing risks
- Developing and implementing safety policies, procedures, and training programs
- Investigating accidents and incidents to determine causes
- Ensuring compliance with OSHA and other regulatory standards
- Preparing reports, documentation, and safety recommendations
- Collaborating with management, employees, and regulatory agencies

Key Areas of Occupational Safety

Specialists and technicians may focus on specific safety programs, industries, or regulations:

- Workplace Hazard Assessment: Identifying physical, chemical, or ergonomic risks
- Safety Program Development: Creating policies, procedures, and training
- Regulatory Compliance: Ensuring adherence to local, state, and federal safety standards
- Incident Investigation and Reporting: Analyzing causes of accidents and recommending corrective actions
- Employee Training and Education: Teaching safe work practices and emergency procedures

Skills and Abilities Needed

Occupational health and safety professionals combine technical knowledge, analytical, and communication skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and technical training:

- Bachelor's Degree (for Specialists): Occupational safety, industrial hygiene, environmental health, or related field
- Associate Degree or Certificate (for Technicians): Safety, occupational health, or related vocational programs
- Internships or On-the-Job Training: Gaining practical experience in safety monitoring, inspections, or compliance
- Certifications (optional but recommended): Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Occupational Health and Safety Technologist (OHST), or similar credentials
- Continuing Education: Staying current with safety standards, technologies, and industry regulations

Where Do Occupational Health and Safety Specialists and Technicians Work?

They are employed in organizations that manage workplace safety and compliance:

- Manufacturing and Industrial Facilities
- Construction and Engineering Companies

- Government and Regulatory Agencies
- Healthcare and Laboratory Settings
- Corporate and Business Environments

Work environments include offices, industrial sites, laboratories, and field locations.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires technical knowledge, analytical skills, and attention to detail. Specialists and technicians must evaluate hazards accurately, enforce safety regulations, and respond to workplace incidents.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy analyzing workplace conditions and solving safety problems
- Are detail-oriented and observant
- Can communicate effectively with employees and management
- Are committed to maintaining safe work environments
- Want a career promoting health, safety, and regulatory compliance

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in occupational safety, health sciences, industrial hygiene, or environmental science
- Volunteer or intern in workplaces that provide exposure to safety inspections or compliance
- Develop analytical, communication, and problem-solving skills
- Explore certificate or associate programs in safety or occupational health
- Stay informed on local, state, and federal safety regulations and industry best practices

Occupational health and safety specialists and technicians protect workers and improve workplace conditions by implementing safety programs, monitoring compliance, and preventing accidents.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-health-and-safety-specialists-and-technicians.htm>