

Self-Assessment Form

What are the working conditions of a Railway Conductor?

- Salaries generally start between \$49,000 – \$69,000 per year using standardized pay scale. The current average salary for a conductor in Canada is around \$85,000, with some employees making over \$100,000 based on experience and role. Please note these numbers will vary based on company and number of hours worked.
- For most railroaders, this job becomes a lifelong career with opportunities for advancement and networks in the railway transportation industry.
- You are typically part of a big organization and structured in a unionized environment based on seniority.
- Expect to work in small teams and independently with little to no supervision.
- You will be required to do shift work including long hours, odd hours, weekends, and statutory holidays.
- Expect to be on call for the first three to seven years, mostly spare board work (24/7 on-call, with two-hour notice) and depending on location, working away from home for up to two days at a time.
- Opportunity to work outdoors, day shifts, night shifts and in all types of weather – sun, rain, wind, sleet, and snow. Investing in high-end insulated work wear is highly recommended.
- This job is physically demanding and requires lifting heavy items (up to 85 lbs.), walking on uneven terrain and performing work while the train is moving. You will work on and around large, heavy, moving and stationary equipment.
- You must be a safety oriented individual as the job can be dangerous. The conductor is usually first at the scene of an accident.

What are some of the skills you will be using as a Railway Conductor?

- Accurately communicate both verbally and in writing with co-workers, authorities, and customers.
- Use of radio equipment (clear voice, enunciation, proper protocol) and correct hand signals. It is important to note that the use of radio communications is more frequent than face-to-face communication.
- Teamwork skills such as, conflict resolution, coaching skills, and the ability to work in small teams (two to three) with different co-workers every shift.
- Mechanical and technical aptitude is needed to operate and perform basic repairs on various types of freight equipment and track appliances.
- Commitment to safety and customer service is an absolute must.
- Perform inspections and tests according to railway rules and specifications.
- Use and interpret technical documentation, railway terminology, as well as railway rules and regulations.
- Identify and document defects in railway equipment and make repairs where appropriate.
- Basic computer skills for logging data, accessing information, completing computer self-training, and operating computerized locomotives.

What are the requirements of the job?

- High school graduate or GED required.
- Railways require a valid driver's license with no restrictions.
- Clean criminal record.
- Zero tolerance policy toward alcohol and drugs. Mandatory testing before employment, random checks during employment (may be checked by potential employers while you are attending the program or practicum).
- Strict medical requirements are in place; good vision (no colour blindness) and hearing along with good general health are necessary.
- Potential applicants taking certain medications (especially amphetamines) may be rejected.
- Reference the [Railway Association of Canada \(RAC\)](#) website and the [Medical Rules Handbook](#) for more details. The [Government of Canada website](#) also outlines railway medical rules.
- Periodic re-certifications and technical training are required throughout employment.
- Flexibility to go where the jobs are with the possibility that you may have to relocate to another province.
- To comply with railway protocols and for your safety, cell phones or electronic devices are not permitted while training or in the railway yard.
- Some railways may have more/less requirements than others, it is your responsibility to confirm these requirements.

What can you expect once you are in the program?

- This is a full-time program, 12 weeks in length, at 6-7 hours per day in the classroom.
- The practicum course provides students with real life experience and will be *held off-campus*.
***Note: Field placement and field trip experiences involve 3rd party locations and you will be required in most cases to sign a waiver and assumption of risk to participate. These waivers will often contain clauses wherein you will completely indemnify the 3rd party provider and facility of any and all liability and claims. To be successful in the program, the field placement and field trip experiences are required, and there are no alternate structures available.**
- Expect field and classroom training to occur at other locations outside of Lambton College.
- You may need to purchase parking at some on-campus locations
- Resumé and cover letter workshops, as well as training in behavioural interviews is provided.
- The job requires the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including high visibility vests, hard hats, safety glasses (PPE), work gloves, CSA approved steel toe leather lace-up boots, 6" tall (ankle support) with 0.5" – 1" heel at right angle from sole as well as suitable weather work apparel.
 - All PPE to be provided by the student.

Acknowledgement

I have read and understand all the above requirements of the Lambton College Railway Conductor program.

Print Name:

Signed:

Date:

Please submit completed form to rail@lambtoncollege.ca