

Self-Assessment Form

What are the working conditions of a Railway Conductor?

- Salaries can range from \$65,000 - \$85,000 per year using standardized pay scale and usually with spare board guarantee pay. After a few years, you can expect to earn \$100,000 or more, depending on job location.
- For most railroaders, this job becomes a lifelong career with opportunities for advancement and networks in the railway transportation industry that spans the continent.
- You are typically part of a big organization, structured in a unionized environment based on seniority. Expect to usually 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 and heaving 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 verbally and in writing with co-workers, authorities and customers.
- Use of radio equipment (clear voice, enunciation and proper protocol) and proper 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 and 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.

- Most railways (CNR) require a driver's license with no restrictions.
- Clean criminal record.
- Zero tolerance policy toward alcohol and drugs. Mandatory testing before employment, random checks during employment, and may be checked by potential employers while you are attending the program or practicum.
- Good vision (no colour blindness) and hearing along with good general health. Mandatory railway medical check-up upon employment, potential applicants on certain medications (especially amphetamines) may be rejected from a medical point of view.
- Check with the [Railway Association of Canada \(RAC\)](http://Railway Association of Canada (RAC) website) website and the [Medical Rules Handbook](#) for more details.
- Periodic re-certifications and technical training is required throughout employment.
- Flexibility to go where the jobs are with the possibility that you may have to relocate to another province.

What can you expect once you are in the program?

- This is a full-time program comprised of operating rules over 12 weeks at six to seven hours per day in the classroom.
- The practicum course provides students with real life experience and will be held at local rail industries in and around Sarnia.
- Resumé and cover letter workshops as well as training in reference to behavioural interviews.
- Expect field and classroom training to occur at other locations outside of Lambton College.
- 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 of the above requirements of the Lambton College Railway Conductor program.

Print Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Please submit completed form to rail@lambtoncollege.ca.