

Crane operator mechanic

by Kalin Sarrasin (Level 3)

Crane operators manoeuvre boom trucks, conventional truck-mounted tower cranes, hydraulic telescoping cranes and mobile cranes. Operators lift heavy objects that cannot be moved by hand.

They have to understand balance, have good dexterity and movement coordination and to be physically fit. Crane operators need to act responsibly to protect themselves and other workers on the ground.

The average salary in Quebec is \$57,000 per year, one of the highest salaries of all the trades. Crane operators will soon be in high demand as a third of all present workers are at least 55 years of age. To become a crane operator, you must do a DEP* at the *Centre de formation en conduite d'engins de chantier et de grues* (offered only in French in Quebec). The admission requirement is a Secondary School Diploma or Secondary 4 English, French and Math. You also need your class 3 driver's permit. This is a highly competitive program and a physical test is mandatory. Colleges in Ontario such as Conestoga, Fleming and Niagara offer the program in English.

*DEP = Diploma of Vocational Studies