



**Frequently Asked Questions about the
Library and Information Technician (LIT) Program
Library and Information Technician Accelerated (LITA) Program**

<http://www.senecacollege.ca/fulltime/LIT.html>
<https://www.senecacollege.ca/programs/fulltime/LITA.html>

How does one become a library technician?

A library technician acquires a diploma from a library technician program offered at a college in Canada.

What do library technicians do in a library?

Library technicians perform the day-to-day operations in a library. These include:

- delivering services including circulation, reference, interlibrary loan and programs to library clients
- finding information from electronic and print sources for clients
- acquiring, preparing and organizing all types of library materials
- using software specific to the library and information industry
- supervising circulation and acquisitions staff
- promoting libraries through the development of materials and advocacy in the library profession

In what types of libraries do library technicians work?

Library technicians work in all types of libraries, which include:

- special libraries (This term refers to libraries in such organizations as businesses, hospitals, law firms, etc.)
- school, college and university libraries
- public libraries

What are the starting salaries for library technicians?

The average hourly rate is approximately \$25.00 per hour, while the average annual salary is approximately \$45,000.

How easy is it for library technicians to find employment?

The Ontario government's [Employment Profile](#) typically indicates that prior to COVID-19 between 70 to 75 per cent of graduates from Ontario LIT programs found employment within six months of graduation. Some library technicians immediately found permanent, full-time employment and there commonly have been numerous part-time and full-time contract positions in libraries.

Employers are very familiar with the qualifications of Seneca's library technician graduates, since Seneca College has offered a library technician program from the time the college first opened in the late 1960s.

What are employers looking for when hiring library technicians?

Employers describe the library technicians that they want to hire as enjoying working with the public, having excellent English communication skills, being well-organized, paying attention to detail, displaying flexibility and adaptability, able to work alone and in teams, and having an interest in technology.

Do library technicians do the same work as librarians?

No, library technicians with a college diploma perform the day-to-day operations in libraries. Librarians with a university masters degree, which follows completion of a university bachelor degree, have managerial responsibilities, develop policies and services, and perform higher level research. Library technicians typically work under the supervision of librarians.

What are the differences between the LIT program and the LITA program?

While the same diploma is awarded for the two programs, the LIT program is completed in four semesters over two years and the LITA program is delivered over twelve months consecutively.

To be eligible for the LITA program, applicants must have previous postsecondary education, which includes credits applicable to the communications and general education courses that are required for the diploma. They also must be able to learn in a rapid, condensed format with the first and second semester courses in the Summer semester being taught over six weeks, rather than the normal twelve week period.

Are all courses in the LIT program offered on-campus?

Prior to COVID-19, all of the courses were delivered on-campus. For the Winter 2021 and Summer 2021 semesters, courses will be delivered online. A decision about future terms will be made closer to the term.

What hardware and software are required to take courses?

Seneca has [technical requirements](#) for online courses.

Where is the LIT program located?

The LIT program is at the Seneca@York Campus, when courses are delivered on campus.

Do students have to take the courses in a specific order?

Yes, two factors influence the progression of the courses. Courses have pre-requisites, which means that specific courses must be successfully completed before taking other courses. Courses also are not offered every semester. First semester courses are offered in the Fall semester, second semester courses in the Winter semester, third semester courses in the Fall semester and fourth semester courses in the Winter semester.

While students may take fewer courses than outlined in the curriculum for a semester, the time for completion of the program increases, usually by one year. This is the result of course availability and course pre-requisites, based on a progression plan.

How many hours of classes typically are there per week?

There are approximately 20 hours of class time per week in the first semester with each of the courses typically having three hours per week and there being seven courses in the semester. In addition to class time, there needs to be additional time for reviewing, completing assignments and studying for tests.

Do students get to build their own timetables?

Students select all of a semester's LIT courses from one of two sections. Courses to meet the communications and general education requirements also are required.

Do students get to work in libraries during the LIT program?

Yes, there are two, three-week (105 hours) field placements throughout the LIT program (third and fourth terms). LIT faculty assign students to a library for the field placement. During COVID-19, students will participate in alternatives to field placements in libraries.

Does the LIT program offer assistance in finding employment?

Yes, students learn to write resumes and cover letters and to respond to typical interview questions, specifically for library positions; become acquainted with the typical sites for library technician job postings; and may be provided with references from LIT faculty and/or field placement supervisors when required by employers.