



Certified EKG Technician (CET) Job Analysis Study EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Healthcareer Association (NHA) conducted a job task analysis (JTA) of EKG technicians from 2025-2026. The goals of the study were to update the description of practice underlying NHA's Certified EKG Technician (CET) examination to accurately reflect the tasks performed and knowledge required in the role, and to validate that description through a survey of practitioners. The study was designed to ensure that the CET exam reflects contemporary practice and tests the critical content required by entry-level EKG technicians. The JTA process adhered to generally accepted psychometric principles and credentialing industry accreditation standards.

The primary work of the job task analysis was completed by an appointed Job Analysis Task Force (JATF) of subject-matter experts (SMEs) who were representative of the EKG technician profession in terms of work settings, experience levels, educational backgrounds, geographic distribution, and demographic characteristics. The JATF met virtually over multiple sessions and participated in numerous email-based assignments during the nine-month study to update the CET test content outline (AKA "test plan, "test content outline," or "delineation of practice") to ensure it was comprehensive, contemporary, and clear. Additional SMEs, representing a range of professional and background characteristics, provided feedback on the ongoing work of the JATF during the iterative update process.

The qualitative phase of the study described above resulted in an updated CET delineation of EKG practice that was followed by a quantitative phase. During this phase, the revised delineation was incorporated into an online survey to collect validation evidence from the profession. The survey was distributed to more than 19,000 NHA-Certified EKG Technicians via email with a link to the survey. Customized rating scales were used to gather evidence related to the elements in the updated delineation. Survey respondents rated the tasks, knowledge, and domains; provided qualitative feedback on the delineation's completeness; and completed a background questionnaire.

The JATF reviewed the results of the validation survey during a series of virtual meetings. Based on data derived from survey responses, they made recommendations for the final content of an updated CET test content outline as well as for test specifications for the CET certification exam. Subsequently, the study Steering Committee met to review the study processes and outcomes and endorsed the recommendations put forward by the JATF.

The updated and validated CET test plan comprises three process-based domains that include both tasks and knowledge, and a set of core/foundational knowledge areas that are used in the performance of multiple tasks across the domains. The updated content outline and test specifications for the CET, resulting from the JTA, were accepted by the NHA CET Certification Board at its May 2026 meeting. The structure of the updated CET test plan, including the domains, the number of associated tasks and knowledge statements in each domain, and the percentage of the CET that should assess content related to each domain, is shown in the following table.

Domains	Tasks	Knowledge	% of exam
Foundational/Core Knowledge	—	3	NA
Safety, Compliance, and Coordinated Patient Care	12	19	34%
EKG Acquisition	16	16	40%
EKG Analysis and Interpretation	8	15	26%
Total	36	53	100%