



WHAT'S MY PATH FORWARD

Discover Your Next Career in the Medical Laboratory



American Society for
Clinical Pathology



www.whatsmynext.org

DISCOVER YOUR NEXT

Careers in the medical laboratory offer opportunities for in-demand, fulfilling careers at every level. This high level of demand for the entire spectrum of medical laboratory roles means competitive pay, the ability to live and work almost anywhere, with opportunities for advancement. Working in a medical laboratory offers a multitude of possible roles to explore. The medical laboratory can be the path to an exciting and rewarding career in healthcare. Check out the variety of careers available to you in the medical laboratory, and the education commitment you should expect for each of them.

Two (2) years or less with a salary range of \$30,000-\$50,000

HISTOTECHNICIAN: Prepares and processes tissue samples for microscopic examination by a pathologist.

PHLEBOTOMIST: Works face-to-face with patients to draw blood samples and processes samples for analysis.

MEDICAL LABORATORY ASSISTANT: Performs clerical tasks, processes samples and provides support for clinical testing.

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN: Collects and processes specimens to perform routine tests in blood banking, chemistry, hematology, immunology, microbiology and/or urinalysis.

Four (4) years or more with a salary range of \$60,000 - \$100,000

CYTOTECHNOLOGIST: Prepare and evaluate cellular samples from all body sites, under the direction of a pathologist to detect pre-cancerous changes, cancer, benign tumors and infectious agents.

HISTOTECHNOLOGIST: Prepares and performs routine and complex histologic techniques (i.e., enzyme histochemistry, immunohistochemistry, immunofluorescence) on tissue samples for microscopic examination by a pathologist to diagnose disease.

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST: Conducts a full range of routine and complex laboratory tests in blood banking, chemistry, hematology, immunology, microbiology molecular biology and/or urinalysis to provide information necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT: Provides anatomic pathology services under the direction and supervision of a pathologist to perform gross examination and dissection of surgical pathology specimens and performance of postmortem examinations.

SPECIALIST IN BLOOD BANKING: Performs all operations in the blood bank from routine testing to the most advanced procedures and are technical supervisors and laboratory managers.

TECHNOLOGIST IN BLOOD BANKING: Performs routine and specialized tests in blood banking and transfusion services to identify blood types and antibodies to support physicians in blood transfusion therapy.

TECHNOLOGIST IN CHEMISTRY: Performs analysis on blood and body fluids to determine the quantity of chemical and/or hormonal content in the specimen.

TECHNOLOGIST IN CYTOGENETICS: Prepare and performs chromosomal analyses on biological specimens to assist in the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of acquired and inherited genetic diseases.

TECHNOLOGIST IN HEMATOLOGY: Performs tests to identify coagulation disorders, and studies morphology of blood constituents to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the blood.

TECHNOLOGIST IN MICROBIOLOGY: Identifies bacteria and microorganisms in tissue samples and body fluids to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases.

TECHNOLOGIST IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY: Performs molecular biologic methods including sequencing and proteomic analysis to characterize acquired and inherited diseases to help diagnosis malignant, metabolic and infectious diseases.

Eight (8) years or more with a salary range of \$150,000 or more

ANATOMIC PATHOLOGIST (MD) A physician who provides the definitive diagnosis of disease using a microscope, special stains, immunohistochemistry and other techniques.

CLINICAL CHEMIST, IMMUNOLOGIST, MICROBIOLOGIST, MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST: Provide laboratory oversight, regulatory compliance, consultation with clinicians and medical education as well as performs new test development, research, and ensures the quality in all testing.

CLINICAL PATHOLOGIST (MD): A physician who provides the definitive diagnosis of disease and specializes in blood banking, chemistry, hematology, immunology, microbiology and molecular biology. Provides advanced medical consultation with clinicians and interdisciplinary teams, laboratory oversight, regulatory compliance and medical education as well as performs new test development, research and ensures quality in all testing.



STUDY

Classes like biology, chemistry and algebra help you prepare for college.



EXPLORE

There are a variety of medical laboratory jobs. Each role plays an important part.



ENROLL

Go to www.naacls.org, www.caahep.org, or www.abhes.org to search for a program.



INTERN

On-the-job experience will help you prepare for working in the laboratory profession.



CERTIFY

ASCP certification helps laboratory professionals earn more and provides more job opportunities.



WORK

Get a job that fits your skills!





HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

To find answers to the most common questions about careers in the medical laboratory, check out our FAQ at www.whatsmynext.org.

What is ASCP? Founded in 1922 in Chicago, ASCP is the world's largest professional membership organization for pathologists and laboratory professionals. ASCP provides excellence in education, certification, and advocacy on behalf of patients, anatomic and clinical pathologists, and medical laboratory professionals. Learn more about who we are, what we do and how we can help you with a career in the lab at www.ascp.org.



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