

# Medical Laboratory Technician



## What do they do?

Medical Laboratory Technicians collect samples and perform tests to analyze body fluids and tissues. They work under the supervision of Medical Laboratory Technologists or Lab Managers and perform more basic tests and lab procedures.

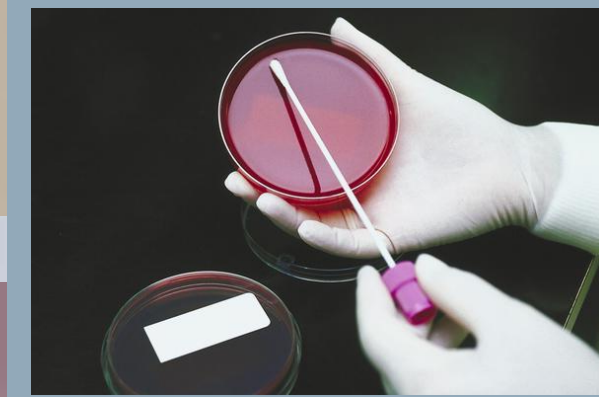
Lab Technicians must be able to work with specialized equipment to perform their tests.

## Where do they work?

Most Lab Technicians work in hospitals, although others work in smaller doctor's offices or diagnostic laboratories.

## Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Medical Lab Technologists is \$37,240



## Education:

A two-year Associate's Degree is required to become a Medical Lab Technician.

### MLT training in Madison:

MATC: [www.madisoncollege.edu](http://www.madisoncollege.edu)

High School students interested in an education in the medical laboratory sciences should take classes in chemistry, biology and math.

## Accreditation:

Education programs for Medical Lab Technicians are accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

[www.naacls.org](http://www.naacls.org)



## Professional Associations:

Medical Lab Technicians can choose to join any of the following professional associations.

American Medical Technologists:

[www.americanmedtech.org/Home.aspx](http://www.americanmedtech.org/Home.aspx)



American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science / ASCLS Wisconsin Chapter:

[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org) / [www.ascls-wi.org](http://www.ascls-wi.org)



American Society for Clinical Pathology:

[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)



American Association of Bioanalysts:

[www.aab.org](http://www.aab.org)



## Certification:

Employers prefer to hire certified Lab Technicians. The certification exam is held by the American Society for Clinical Pathology - Board of Certification (ASCP-BOC) :

[www.ascp.org/Board-of-Certification/GetCertified](http://www.ascp.org/Board-of-Certification/GetCertified)

## Potential for Advancement:

A Medical Lab Technician can specialize in the following areas:

### Phlebotomist

Collects blood samples for testing.

### Histotechnician

Cut and stain tissue specimens for doctors who study disease.

Medical Lab Technicians can also continue their education to become a Medical Lab Technologist (sometimes called a Clinical Lab Scientist). A CLS/MLT can then specialize in the following areas:

### Immunohematology Technologist

Collects blood, classifies by type and prepares for transfusion.

### Clinical Chemistry Technologist

Prepares specimens and analyzes the chemical and hormonal content of body fluids.

### Cytotechnologist

Prepares slides of cells and examines with a microscope to find cancer.

### Immunology Technologist

Examines the immune system and its response to foreign bodies.

### Microbiology Technologist

Examines and identifies bacteria and other microorganisms.

### Molecular Biology Technologist

Performs complex tests on cell samples.



## Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Medical Lab Technicians is expected to grow 14 percent between 2012-2020, which is about as fast as the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*, Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians: [www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-and-clinical-laboratory-technologists-and-technicians.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-and-clinical-laboratory-technologists-and-technicians.htm)

