

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 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 Medical Laboratory 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 income for Medical Laboratory Technicians is \$52,330 per year.



Education:

A two-year associate's degree is required to become a Medical Laboratory Technician.

MLT training in Madison:

Madison Area Technical College: 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 are accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

www.naacls.org



Professional Associations:

American Medical Technologists:

www.americanmedtech.org/Home.aspx



American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science / ASCLS

Wisconsin Chapter:

www.ascls.org / www.ascls-wi.org



American Society for Clinical Pathology:

www.ascp.org



American Association of Bioanalysts:

www.aab.org



Certification:

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

www.ascp.org



Potential for Advancement:

A Medical Laboratory 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 Laboratory Technicians can also continue their education to become a Medical Technologist (sometimes called a Clinical Laboratory 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 Laboratory Technicians is expected to grow 13 percent between 2016-2026, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2017-18 Edition* <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-and-clinical-laboratory-technologists-and-technicians.htm>

