

## What do Clinical Laboratory Scientists/Technicians do?

Clinical Laboratory Scientists, also known as Medical Technologists; and Clinical Laboratory Technicians, also referred to as Medical Laboratory Technicians, analyze body fluids, tissues and other substances, using a variety of clinical laboratory procedures.

Clinical Laboratory Scientists/Technicians:

- Perform complex medical and clinical laboratory testing used in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of diseases,
- Microscopically examine blood, tissue and other body substances,
- Make cultures of body fluid and tissue samples to determine the presence of bacteria, fungi, parasites or other microorganisms,
- Analyze samples for chemical content or a chemical reaction, such as determining blood glucose and cholesterol levels,
- Evaluate test results, develop and modify procedures, along with establishing and monitoring programs to ensure accuracy of tests,
- Advocate before legislators for issues related to the quality of clinical laboratory test results,
- Consult with health care professionals and the general public on the meaning or interpretation of clinical laboratory test results, and
- Educate other health care professionals and the general public about the critical role clinical laboratory testing has on diagnostic and treatment decisions.

## Where do Clinical Laboratory Scientists/Technicians work?

Work is often performed in clean, well-lit hospitals, private or research laboratories, clinics or physicians' offices. Schedules vary with size and type of employer, although rotating shifts and evening, weekend or holiday hours may be common. Personnel may be on call for emergencies.

Clinical laboratory personnel are trained to work with infectious specimens. Protective masks, gloves and goggles are often necessary to ensure the safety of laboratory personnel.

## How do I get a job in clinical laboratory science?

### After high school...

There are a variety of paths to becoming a Clinical Laboratory Scientist/Medical Laboratory Technologist. The most common path includes achieving a bachelor's degree in medical technology or a life science, including a structured laboratory program. It is also possible to qualify through a combination of postsecondary education and specialized training. Both universities and hospitals offer clinical laboratory science/medical technology programs.

Clinical Laboratory Technicians/Medical Laboratory Technicians must earn an associate degree from a community or junior college.

Voluntary certification, granted by agencies such as the Board of Registry of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP), and the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA), and American Medical Technologies (AMT), is available for all qualified medical laboratory employees.

### Is this the career for me?

Clinical laboratory employees need good analytical judgment and the ability to work well under pressure. Close attention to detail is essential, because small differences or changes in test substances or numerical readouts can be crucial for patient care. With the widespread use of automated laboratory equipment, computer skills are also important. In addition, technologists in particular are expected to be good at problem solving. Recommended high school courses include Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Computer.

## How much money do people in clinical laboratory sciences make?

	Average Annual Salary
Clinical Laboratory Scientists/ Medical Technologists	\$45,690
Clinical Laboratory Technicians/ Medical Laboratory Technicians	\$33,650

## Will I be able to get a job in Pennsylvania?

There are an average of 230 job openings each year for Clinical Laboratory Technologists and 361 jobs for technicians in Pennsylvania each year.

*Where do I go for more information?*

**[www.pahealthcareers.org](http://www.pahealthcareers.org)**

**Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers**

**901 North Seventh Street  
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Harrisburg, PA 17102**

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