

Clinical Laboratory Technician/Medical Laboratory Technician

Laboratory tests play an important role in the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of many diseases and in the promotion of health. Clinical laboratory technicians/medical laboratory technicians perform these tests under the supervision or direction of pathologists (physicians who diagnose the causes and nature of disease) and other physicians, clinical laboratory scientists/medical technologists, or other scientists who specialize in clinical chemistry, microbiology, or the other biological sciences. Clinical laboratory technicians/medical laboratory technicians develop data on the blood, tissues, and fluids of the human body by using a variety of precise methodologies and technologies.



Career Description

Clinical laboratory technicians/medical laboratory technicians typically hold an associate degree and perform all the routine tests in an up-to-date medical laboratory and can demonstrate discrimination between closely similar items and correction of errors by the use of preset strategies. The technician has knowledge of specific techniques and instruments and is able to recognize factors that directly affect procedures and results. The technician also monitors quality assurance procedures.



Employment Characteristics

Most clinical laboratory technicians/medical laboratory technicians work in hospital, clinic, or physician office laboratories.



Salary

Salaries vary, depending upon the employer and geographic location. Based on a 2005 survey published in *Laboratory Medicine*, median salaries ranged from \$37,100 to \$41,000. Data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics for 2007 shows that wages at the 10th percentile are \$22,670, the 50th percentile (median) at \$34,270, and the 90th percentile at \$52,190 (www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes292012.htm). For more information, refer to www.ama-assn.org/go/hpsalary.



Educational Programs

Length. The period of education is usually 2 academic years and typically culminates in an associate degree.

Prerequisites. High school diploma or equivalent.

The applicant also must meet the admission requirements of the sponsoring educational institution.

Curriculum. Associate degree programs are conducted in junior or community colleges, in 2-year divisions of universities and colleges, or in other recognized institutions granting associate degrees. Courses are taught on campus and usually in affiliated hospitals. Classroom and laboratory classes focus on general knowledge and basic skills; understanding principles and master procedures of laboratory testing; and basic laboratory mathematics, computer technology, communication skills, and interpersonal relationships and responsibilities. The clinical courses include application of basic principles commonly used in the diagnostic laboratory. Clinical instruction includes procedures in hematology, microbiology, immunohematology, immunology, clinical chemistry, and urinalysis.



Inquiries

Careers/Curriculum

American Medical Technologists
10700 West Higgins Road, Suite 150
Rosemont, IL 60018
847 823-5169
E-mail: mail@amt1.com
www.amt1.com

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
6701 Democracy Blvd., Suite 300
Bethesda, MD 20817
301 657-2768
301 657-2909 Fax
E-mail: ascls@ascls.org
www.ascls.org

American Society for Clinical Pathology
33 West Monroe, Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60603
312 541-4999
E-mail: info@ascp.org
www.ascp.org

Certification/Registration

American Society for Clinical Pathology
Board of Registry
PO Box 12270
Chicago, IL 60612
312 738-1336, Ext 1341
E-mail: bor@ascp.org
www.ascp.org

National Certification Agency for Medical Laboratory Personnel
PO Box 15945-289
Lenexa, KS 66285
913 438-5110
E-mail: nca-info@goamp.com
www.nca-info.org

American Association of Bioanalysts
Board of Registry
906 Olive Street, Suite 1200
St. Louis, MO 63101-1434
www.aab.org

American Medical Technologists
10700 W. Higgins Road, Suite 150
Rosemont, IL 60018
847 823-5169
E-mail: mail@amt1.com
www.amt1.com

Program Accreditation

Dianne M Cearlock, PhD

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences

5600 N River Rd, Suite 720

Rosemont, IL 60018

773 714-8880

773 714-8886 Fax

E-mail: dcearlock@naacls.org

www.naacls.org