

Clinical Assistant

Laboratory tests play an important role in the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases. Clinical assistants are formally prepared multiskilled health care providers with a laboratory focus. Clinical assistants are trained to work under the supervision of an appropriately qualified person in chemistry, donor room collection screening, component processing, hematology, immunology, microbiology, phlebotomy, and/or urinalysis.



Career Description

Clinical assistants follow standard operating procedures to collect specimens; prepare blood and body fluid specimens for analysis according to standard operating procedures; prepare/reconstitute reagents, standards, and controls according to standard operating procedure; perform appropriate tests at the clinical assistant level; perform and record vital sign measurements; and follow established quality control protocols. Clinical assistants follow infection control and safety practices and use information systems necessary to accomplish job functions.



Employment Characteristics

Many clinical assistants are employed in hospital laboratories. Others are employed in physicians' private laboratories and clinics; by the armed forces; or by city, state, and federal health agencies.



Salary

Salaries vary depending on the employer and geographic location. For more information, refer to www.ama-assn.org/go/hpsalary.



Educational Programs

Length. Approved programs culminate in a postsecondary certificate.

Prerequisites. High school diploma or equivalent. The applicant must also meet the admission requirements of the sponsoring institution.

Curriculum. Clinical assistant programs are conducted in junior or community colleges, hospitals, medical laboratories, proprietary schools, and other equivalent postsecondary educational institutions.



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