



# HISTOTECHNOLOGIST

## What do I do?

I have advanced education and training and a deep understanding of tissue preparation for microscopic analysis, assisting the pathologist's diagnosis. Histotechnologists may evaluate new techniques and advance to supervisory positions in the pathology laboratory.

### My typical day includes:

- **Embedding processed tissue** samples into paraffin wax blocks
- Rotary microtomy (**cutting**) of tissue samples
- Operating and maintaining laboratory equipment used in the **processing or staining of tissue** samples, such as H&E stainers, microtome/cryostat, tissue processors, or coverslippers.
- Entering **patient information** to corresponding case number of the tissue sample
- **Filing of glass slides** and/or paraffin wax blocks for archival purposes
- Performing **special staining techniques** for further **diagnostic testing**

\* Salaries are based on a national average and will vary by location and years of service and other factors.

## Necessary Skill Sets



**PROBLEM SOLVING**  
Ability to troubleshoot equipment, staining, or processing issues that may occur within the course of the day.



**CONVENTIONAL**  
Requires following set laboratory procedures and processes.



**FLEXIBLE**  
Able to adjust to the volume and unpredictability of the workflow in the laboratory setting.



**ATTENTION TO DETAIL**  
Ability to recognize inaccuracies in tissue processing, microtomy, and staining.

## Salary

Mean Annual Salary\*: \$89,100  
(Median: \$85,500)

## Certification

[Earn certification as a Histotechnologist \(HTL\) from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification \(ASCP BOC\).](#)

## Education Requirements

Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college/university with a combination of 30 semester hours in biology and chemistry (must include credit hours in both) and successful completion of one of the following:

- NAACLS (National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences) accredited Histotechnician or Histotechnologist program within the last five years.
- One year of full-time acceptable work experience in a histopathology (clinical, veterinary, industry, or research) laboratory or an accredited laboratory within the last five years.
- Successful completion of a 50-week US military histotechnician training course within the last ten years.

### Additional option:

Valid HT(ASCP) certification and a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college/university and six months of full-time acceptable work experience in a histopathology (clinical, veterinary, industry, or research) laboratory or an accredited laboratory within the last five years.