

# MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST



American Society for  
Clinical Pathology

## What do I do?

I am a key member of the medical community that performs the large majority of the laboratory tests on samples collected. I interact with health care providers to recommend appropriate testing and convey critical values that may impact patient care. I may be involved in teaching, new test development and quality assurance.

## My typical day includes:

- **Conduct chemical analysis of body fluids**, including blood, urine, or spinal fluid, to determine presence of normal or abnormal components.
- **Analyze laboratory findings** to check the accuracy of the results.
- **Assess blood samples** to determine the number and type of cells; or blood group and compatibility for transfusions.
- Perform microbiologic culture and other methods to diagnose infections.
- Record data from medical tests and enter results into a patient's medical record.
- Discuss results and findings of laboratory tests and procedures with physicians.
- **Operate, calibrate, or maintain equipment** used in quantitative or qualitative analysis, such as spectrophotometers, calorimeters, flame photometers, or computer-controlled analyzers.
- Operate laboratory equipment, such as microscopes and automated cell counters.

## Necessary Skill Sets



### ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Perform routine laboratory procedures and complex analyses that require a high level of cognitive understanding with skill and efficiency, producing accurate and precise results within a specified period of time.



### COMMUNICATION

Describe and relate the theoretical and practical aspects of each test performed in the laboratory. Relate normal, abnormal and critical values with their significance by demonstrating correct follow-up actions.



### ETHICAL BEHAVIOR

Exhibit attitudes of honesty and integrity in the performance of all laboratory procedures, with an understanding of the ultimate consequences gained from a knowledge of medical ethics.



### PROBLEM SOLVING

Ability to troubleshoot instrumentation and assess abnormal results.

## Salary

Mean Annual Salary\*: \$86,900  
(Median: \$83,200)

## Certification

[Earn certification as a Medical Laboratory Scientist \(MLS\) from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification \(ASCP BOC\).](#)

## Education Requirements

Minimum bachelor's degree in Medical Laboratory Science and MLS certification

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