

# MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

## What do I do?

Perform routine medical laboratory tests for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. May work under the supervision of a medical laboratory scientist. Tasks may be similar to medical laboratory scientist in many laboratories.

## My typical day includes:

- **Collect blood by venipuncture.** Prepare blood, body fluids and other specimens for analysis.
- **Conduct chemical analysis of blood and body fluids** using manual methods and automated instruments to detect abnormalities or diseases. Analyze finding to check the accuracy of results.
- **Assess blood samples** to determine the number and types of cells; or blood group and compatibility for transfusions.
- **Perform microbiologic culture** and other methods to diagnose infections.
- **Utilize molecular and immunologic methods** to determine the presence of genetic and immunologic markers of health and disease.
- **Record data from medical tests** and enter results into the patient's medical record.
- **Operate, calibrate, maintain and perform quality control** of automated medical laboratory equipment.



American Society for  
Clinical Pathology

## 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: \$68,700 (Median: \$68,800)

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

## Certification

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

## Education Requirements

Associate degree and Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) certification

## Job Titles

Medical Laboratory Technician, Certified Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT), Clinical Laboratory Technician

## Career Video:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=QS97tc\\_7DqQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QS97tc_7DqQ)

All information can be found at <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2011.00>  
Additionally, take the online career interest profiler at <https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>  
Skills needed for MLT career: <https://www.swccd.edu/locations/higher-education-center-at-national-city/programs/medical-lab-tech-program/files/mlt-student-handbook-2023-2024v2.pdf>  
NAACLS Program Finder: <https://naacls.org/Find-a-Program.aspx>  
2021 ASCP Wage Survey Report: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcp/aqac116>

Learn about Careers in the Medical Laboratory: <https://www.whatsmynext.org>  
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