

# Career Spotlight



In high school, after taking classes such as biology, anatomy and physiology, and chemistry, I knew that I wanted to pursue a career in health care. Being able to learn more about how this information is used to diagnose, treat and even cure disorders and disease states is what motivated me to become a medical technologist. I enjoy working in a laboratory setting because the precise and analytical methods and procedures suit my perfectionistic personality! Knowing that quality results are ordered and reported accurately and efficiently is a way that we provide excellent patient care.



**Lauren**  
Medical Technologist

I have always had a passion for health sciences. The laboratory is a broad entry level position that can lead to many different fields if you are willing to continue your education. I like working with doctors, nurses and other health professionals to help diagnose disease and administer the best possible treatment.



I love being part of a team that helps save lives.

**Peter**  
Medical Laboratory Technician

missouri  
healthcareers  
.com

## CLINICAL LABORATORY SERVICES

### KEY

#### SALARY

\$\$\$\$\$	\$20,000 or lower
\$\$\$\$\$	\$20,001 to \$39,999
\$\$\$\$\$	\$40,000 to \$59,999
\$\$\$\$\$	\$60,000 to \$99,999
\$\$\$\$\$	\$100,000 or higher

#### JOB OUTLOOK

☆☆☆☆	negative job growth
★☆☆☆☆	4.9% increase or lower
★★☆☆☆	5% - 9.9% increase
★★★☆☆	10% - 14.9% increase
★★★★☆	15% - 19.9% increase
★★★★★	20% increase or higher

#### EDUCATION

◆◆◆◆	High school diploma/GED or short on-the-job training (less than 1 month)
◆◆◆◆	Postsecondary vocational award (certificate or diploma) and/or moderate on-the-job training (1 to 12 months) or work experience in a related occupation
◆◆◆◆	Associate degree (2 years) or long on-the-job training
◆◆◆◆	Bachelor's or Master's degree, may include certification program (4 years or more)
◆◆◆◆	Doctoral or professional degree or higher (may be 6 years or more)

Data for salary, job outlook and education infographics were gleaned from Missouri 2008-2018 Occupational Projections, published online by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) within the Missouri Department of Economic Development. When positions in this publication were not directly comparable to a position in MERIC's data, the salary, job outlook and education of a related general occupation were used.



# Clinical Laboratory Services



# Clinical Laboratory Services

## Phlebotomist/Medical Assistant

SALARY



OUTLOOK



EDUCATION



You are trained to draw blood from patients. You mostly collect blood using a process called venipuncture and often draw blood from the underside of the arm near the elbow. The blood you collect may be tested to check the health of the patient or may be used for transfusion.

## Medical or Clinical Laboratory Technician

SALARY



OUTLOOK



EDUCATION



In a laboratory, you prepare blood, urine and tissue specimens for analysis. You use sophisticated equipment to look for bacteria, parasites and other microorganisms. You might analyze the chemicals in fluid or match blood to help people get the right kind in a transfusion. You also perform blood tests that show how patients are responding to treatment.

## Medical or Clinical Laboratory Technologist

SALARY



OUTLOOK



EDUCATION



You work in all areas of a clinical lab and perform a wide variety of tests. Some tests are very complex and will detect cancer, HIV/AIDS or diabetes. You also confirm whether results are correct and report the results to doctors and other health care professionals.

## Histologic Technician/Histotechnologist<sup>1</sup>

SALARY



OUTLOOK



EDUCATION



You prepare body tissues to be examined by a pathologist. To prepare tissues for analysis, you might section and stain tissues, embed them in paraffin or plastic, or prepare frozen sections of tissues directly from the operating room. You also will operate sophisticated equipment, such as microscopes and microtomes. Microtomes are the machines that allow you to cut extremely thin slices of material, which are then able to be examined under a microscope.

## Cytotechnologist<sup>1</sup>

SALARY



OUTLOOK



EDUCATION



You are a laboratory professional who studies cells and cellular abnormalities. You use a microscope to look at slides of human cells for any signs that a cell is not normal. You often play an important role when you identify disease when it is still early and treatable. This understanding can help patients recover more quickly.

Key is located on reverse.

## What Do You Do?

You perform tests on blood and other bodily fluids (like amniotic fluid or fluid around the lungs) to find disease, infection and chemical imbalances in patients. These tests are very important in choosing the best way to treat patients. You will work with highly sophisticated equipment to run these important tests.

## Education Requirements



### Phlebotomist/Medical Assistant

High school diploma (or GED) and on-the-job training

### Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT)

Associate degree (or 60 college hours with 12 hours of biology and chemistry) and complete an accredited MLT program

### Medical Technologists (MT)/ Clinical Laboratory Technologists

Bachelor's degree (including at least 32 college hours in biology, chemistry and math), complete an accredited MT program and have two years of full-time experience in a pathologist-supervised, accredited lab

### Histologic Technician (HT) or Histotechnologist (HTL)

To be an HT, an associate degree (or 60 college hours with 12 hours of biology and chemistry) and complete an accredited HT program. Add a bachelor's that includes 30 hours of biology and chemistry and complete an accredited HTL program to move up to HTL.

### Cytotechnologists

Enroll in a one-year cytotechnology program during college and then enter the program after graduation.

Nearly 85 percent of clinical lab professionals have at least some college education, and half have a bachelor's degree or higher.

<sup>1</sup> This job was not specifically identified in the MERIC's Occupational Projections. A comparable occupation, Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologist, was used to indicate salary, job outlook and education.