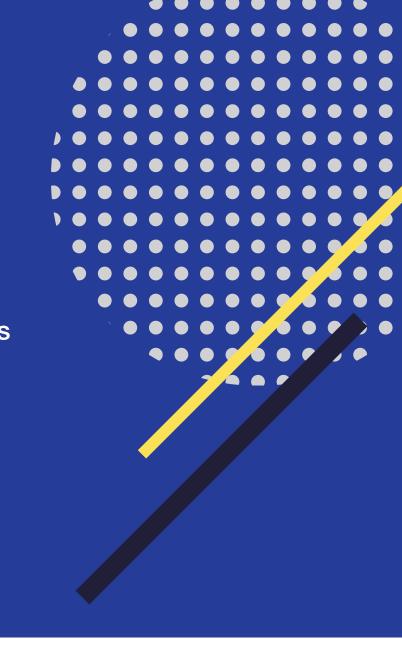
## How do I start a career in the medical laboratory?

Many career opportunities are available in medical laboratory science, ranging from roles that require a certificate up to a doctoral degree. There are opportunities to grow in the laboratory through additional education and certifications. Learn more about what laboratory professionals do in the laboratory and be part of the team who provides up to 70% of medical diagnoses. Each of these careers plays a critical role in healthcare, diagnosing patients, and saving lives.

www.whatsmynext.org



**EDUCATION TIER Clinical Pathologist (MD) Medical Laboratory Director Anatomic Pathologist (MD)** with Doctoral Degree A physician who directs laboratories and A physician who specializes in the diagnostic **Doctoral degree** serve as the central link between the patient, Direct medical and public health laboratories interpretation of organs and tissues (including the provider, and the laboratory. Reviews and specializing in microbiology, chemistry, blood) through a variety of macroscopic, interprets laboratory data from patients to help immunology and molecular diagnostics and microscopic, and molecular methods. guide clinical decisions serve as clinical consultants to providers. ~\$300,000 annually ~\$300,000 annually \$135 – 160K annually **TIER Pathologists' Assistant** A highly trained, certified allied healthcare professional that performs the examination and Masters degree evaluation of all surgical pathology specimens, and assists with postmortem examinations Mean Annual Salary: \$114,100 (Median: \$111,500) Histotechnologist **Medical Laboratory Scientist Cytologist** Has advanced education and training and a Perform the majority of tests in clinical **TIER** deep understanding of tissue preparation for Provide advanced diagnostic services and laboratories to diagnose and monitor patient health and disease. Techniques include microscopic analysis, assisting the pathologist's physician support by performing microscopic diagnosis. Histotechnologists may evaluate interpretations of body fluids and conducting microscopy, immunodiagnostics, culture of 4-year degree microbes, mass spectrometry, PCR, DNA companion technologies. new techniques and advance to supervisory sequencing, and more. Mean Annual Salary: \$105,800 Mean Annual Salary: \$98,600 (Median: \$100,400) Mean Annual Salary: \$105,200 (Median: \$95,000) (Median: \$93,000) **Medical Laboratory Technician** Histotechnician They perform routine medical laboratory tests **TIER** They are an integral part of the pathology laboratory who transform a raw, tissue sample for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention for staining on a microscopic glass slide that of disease. Tasks may be similar to medical laboratory scientist in many laboratories. the pathologists make their diagnosis from. 2-year degree Mean Annual Salary: \$89,500 Mean Annual Salary: \$71,400 Median: \$84,000) (Median: \$71,500) **Medical Laboratory Assistant Phlebotomist** This individual works in a variety of inpatient, clinic, out-patient, referral, and research The most patient adjacent member of the **TIER** Certificate settings to manage the quality of patient laboratory who collects blood from patients. specimens from collection, labeling, handling, Communicates with doctors and patients. programs earned processing, testing, billing, and storage. through NACCLS Mean Annual Salary: \$44,200 certified college Mean Annual Salary: \$42,400 (Median: \$42,800) programs. Often 2 (Median: \$40,600) years or less.

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

