

# HISTOTECHNICIAN (HT)

## What do I do?

A Histotechnician prepares and processes tissue samples for routine histologic techniques to be examined under a microscope by a pathologist. The histologic techniques include the following: fixation, processing, embedding, microtomy, and staining of human and animal tissue for evaluation.

### *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**.

## Necessary Skill Sets



**PROBLEM SOLVING**  
Ability to troubleshoot equipment, staining, or processing issues.



**ADHERENCE TO PROTOCOL**  
Requires following set laboratory procedures.



**FLEXIBILITY**  
Able to adjust to changes in test volume or workflow to meet patient care needs.



**ATTENTION TO DETAIL**  
Performs work with accuracy, ensuring results meet parameters for test quality.

## Education Requirements

An Associate degree in Histotechnology or a related laboratory science from an accredited institution.

Note: For examination eligibility requirements, including alternate education/training routes, refer to the link provided under the above certification section.

## Certification

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

## Salary

Mean Annual Salary\*: \$83,900 (Median: \$79,800)