

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN (MLT)



What do I do?

A Medical Laboratory Technician collects, processes, and performs routine laboratory tests in blood banking, chemistry, hematology, immunology, microbiology, molecular biology, and/or urinalysis on biologic specimens to provide information necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

My typical day includes:

- **Collecting blood by venipuncture.** Preparing blood, body fluids and other specimens for analysis.
- **Conducting chemical analysis of blood and body fluids** using manual methods and automated instruments to detect abnormalities or diseases.
- **Assessing blood samples** to determine the number and types of cells; or blood group and compatibility for transfusions
- **Performing microbiologic culture** and other methods to diagnose infections.
- **Utilizing molecular and immunologic methods** to determine the presence of genetic and immunologic markers of health and disease.
- **Recording data from medical tests** and enter results into the patient's medical record.
- **Performing quality control**, calibrating, operating, and maintaining automated medical laboratory equipment and specimen analyzers.

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 the practice of strong medical ethics.



PROBLEM SOLVING

Ability to troubleshoot instrumentation and assess abnormal results.

Education Requirements

An Associate degree in Medical Laboratory Technician from an accredited institution.

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

Certification

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

Salary

Mean Annual Salary*: \$68,700 (Median: \$68,800)

* Salaries are based on a national average and will vary by location, years of service and other factors. ([ASCP Data](#))