

HISTOTECHNOLOGIST (HTL)



What do I do?

A Histotechnologist performs both routine and complex histologic techniques such as enzyme histochemistry, immunohistochemistry, *in situ* hybridization, and immunofluorescence on tissue samples for microscopic examination by a pathologist to diagnose disease. They are knowledgeable in the areas of pathology, management, education, and regulations that impact the field of histotechnology.

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
Follows set laboratory procedures and processes.



FLEXIBILITY
Ability 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. Ability to recognize inaccuracies in tissue processing, microtomy, and staining.

Education Requirements

A Bachelor's degree in Histotechnology or related science from a 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 Histotechnologist \(HTL\) from the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification \(ASCP BOC\).](#)

Salary

Mean Annual Salary*: 89,100 (Median: \$85,500)

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