

# ANATOMIC PATHOLOGIST (MD)



American Society for  
Clinical Pathology



ASCP  
BOARD OF  
CERTIFICATION®

## What do I do?

An anatomic pathologist specializes in the diagnostic interpretation of organs and tissues (including blood) using macroscopic, microscopic, and molecular methods. They are key members of the multidisciplinary patient care team and provide crucial diagnostic, prognostic, and predictive information necessary for effective patient treatment. In many settings, anatomic pathologists also serve as directors of anatomic pathology laboratories, offering oversight and leadership for the daily operations of the entire laboratory team.

## My typical day includes:

- **Examination of patient specimens** (whole organs and tissues) and microscopic slides made from those tissues in order to make diagnoses that guide patient care.
- Interpretation of specialized testing performed on patient samples in order to **provide prognostic and predictive information that guides the treatment of their patients.**
- Working with the multidisciplinary team (oncologists, surgeons, internists, subspecialists, nurses, etc) to provide **coordinated care for their patients.**
- Providing leadership and direction of medical **laboratories.**
- **Guiding other physicians** on best practices for test ordering and interpretation.

## Subdisciplines of Anatomic Pathology include:



### SURGICAL PATHOLOGY

The evaluation of solid tissue specimens from biopsies and surgical procedures.



### AUTOPSY PATHOLOGY

Post-mortem examination to identify disease processes and determine cause of death.



### CYTOPATHOLOGY

The evaluation of cells that are exfoliated from the surface of tissues or extracted with a needle.

## Education Requirements

- College – 4 Years
- Medical School – 4 Years
- Pathology residency – 3-4 Years
- Pathology Fellowship (optional) – 1-2 Years

## Certification

Boarded by the American Board of Pathology (ABP)

## Salary

Mean Annual Salary\*: \$300,000

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