

CAREER OUTLOOK

Employment opportunities for medical laboratory technicians are expected to increase 10% to 20% over the next eight years. The rapidly growing older population will be one reason for this growth, since older people tend to have more medical problems that will require lab work. New and exciting advancements in technology will also add to a rise in employment in this sector. As in most occupations, many openings will result from the need to replace workers who transfer to other companies, retire, or stop working for some other reason.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Society for Clinical
Laboratory Science
7910 Woodmont Avenue
Suite 530
Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: (301) 657-2768
Web: www.ascls.org

American Society of Clinical
Pathologists
2100 W Harrison Street
Chicago, IL 60612-3798
Phone: (312) 738-1336
Web: www.ascp.org

Mississippi Society for Clinical
Laboratory Science
The University of Mississippi
Medical Center
2500 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39216-4505
Phone: (601) 984-6300
Web: <http://shrp.umc.edu>

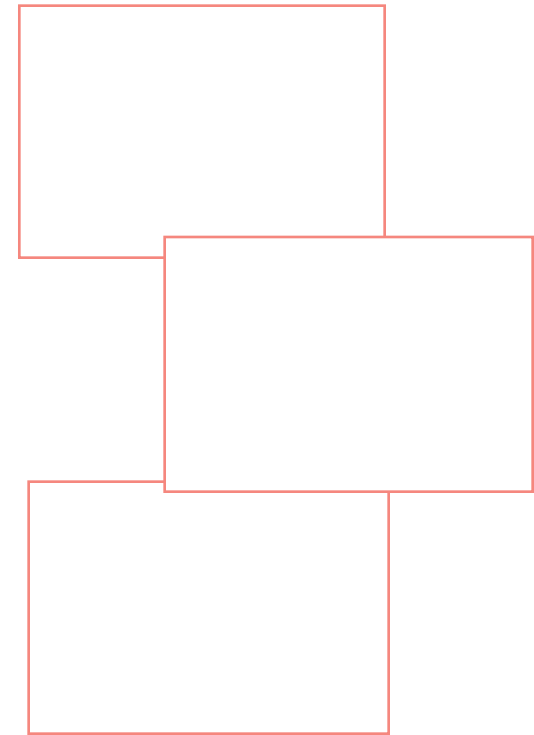


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POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Laboratory tests have become increasingly important in the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of many illnesses and diseases. Medical laboratory technicians, also called clinical laboratory technicians, perform routine laboratory procedures on blood, tissue, and other bodily fluids using instruments such as microscopes, chemicals, computers, and complex laboratory equipment. They usually perform these duties under the supervision of a medical laboratory scientist, pathologist, or other professionals that specialize in biological sciences. The technician has knowledge of specific techniques and instruments and is able to recognize factors that directly affect procedures and results. Medical laboratory technicians can specialize in one of five different areas: blood banking, chemistry, hematology, immunology, or microbiology. They are also called upon to report lab results to other medical personnel, maintain equipment, and maintain laboratory records. This career path requires patience and precision and the ability to work well under pressure.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Most medical laboratory technicians work in hospital laboratories. Other places of employment are public health laboratories, reference laboratories, biomedical companies, universities, industrial medical laboratories, pharmaceutical companies, forensic medicine, and the armed forces.

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Students interested in pursuing a career as a medical laboratory technician should concentrate on subjects such as algebra, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, computer skills, English, health occupations/medical professions education, and physical education.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Students entering a medical laboratory technician program should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Individuals must complete an Associate Degree program in medical laboratory technology that includes clinical training. After completing this program, candidates must pass a national certification examination given by the Board of Registry of the American

Society of Clinical Pathologists, the National Certification Agency for Medical Laboratory Personnel, or the American Medical Technologists. It is recommended that a counselor be consulted for advice on the certification process. Students interested in medical laboratory technology should contact schools for information on admission and course of study.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Northeast Mississippi
Community College
Cunningham Blvd.
Booneville, MS 38829
Phone: (601) 720-7388

Meridian Community
College
910 Hwy 19 N
Meridian, MS 39307
Phone: (601) 484-8755

Mississippi Gulf Coast
Community College
2300 Hwy 90
PO Box 100
Gautier, MS 39553
Phone: (228) 497-7709

Mississippi Delta
Community College
PO Box 668
Moorhead, MS 38761
Phone: (662) 246-6500

Pearl River Community
College-Poplarville
5448 US Hwy 49 S
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Phone: (601) 554-5523

Copiah - Lincoln
Community College
PO Box 457
Wesson, MS 39191-0457
Phone: (601) 643-8391

Hinds Community
College
1750 Chadwick Dr
Jackson, MS 39204-3402
Phone: (601) 371-3515

SALARY RANGE

Average Annual Salary--\$29,500
Salary Range--\$24,700-\$33,200