

Health Career Observer



The Official Newsletter of the WNY R-AHEC

January 2023

Medical Laboratory Scientist & Technician

Medical laboratory scientists and technicians, (also known as clinical laboratory technologists and technicians), collect samples and perform tests to analyze body fluids, such as blood and urine, and tissue and other substances. They perform tests and procedures ordered by physicians and surgeons. Laboratory scientists typically perform more complex tests than technicians. They may prepare specimens and perform detailed manual tests where technicians perform routine tests that may be more automated. Types of laboratory scientists include blood bank (immunohematology), clinical chemistry, cytotechnologist, immunology, microbiology, and molecular biology. Laboratory technicians usually work under the general supervision of clinical laboratory technologists or laboratory managers.

Average Annual Pay: \$57,800



"Knowing that you have changed so many people's lives in one shift is a great sense of pride..."

How Do I Become a Medical Laboratory Scientist & Technician

**Projected Job
Market Growth:
7% by 2031**

Medical laboratory scientists typically need a bachelor's degree in medical technology/laboratory science or a related life science, such as biology with additional specialized medical laboratory training. Technicians need an associate degree or a postsecondary certificate in clinical laboratory science. Some states require medical laboratory scientists and technicians to be licensed. Licensing may be preferred by employers. Medical laboratory scientists and technicians can obtain general certification or certification in a specialty such as cytotechnology or medical biology.

What Does a Medical Laboratory Scientist & Technician Do?



Analyze body fluid and tissue samples.

- ✓ Record abnormal findings.
- ✓ Study blood samples for use in transfusions.
- ✓ Operate laboratory equipment such as microscopes and cell counters.



Log data from medical tests and enter results in a patient's medical record.

- ✓ Use automated equipment and computerized instruments.
- ✓ Discuss test results with physicians.



WNY R-AHEC, 20 Duncan St, Warsaw, NY 14569

585-786-6275 ebrauen@r-ahc.org

<https://www.r-ahc.org/>

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A Professional Account

James Payne, medical laboratory assisting and phlebotomy instructor at the WEMOCO Career and Technical Education Center and formerly a research technician shares his personal insight of medical laboratory science.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

"Putting the puzzle pieces of the medical tests ordered by the doctor together so that they can provide a diagnosis. Knowing that you have changed so many people's lives in one shift is a great sense of pride for laboratory medicine people."

What is the most challenging?

"The fast-paced nature of the work. 70% of all medical decisions are based on the data produced from the laboratory and 94% of your medical record information is based on laboratory results."

What do you wish you knew back in school that you know now?

Regulations in NYS require attendance in a medical or clinical laboratory science program to become a Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS). A biology or chemistry degree makes the path to an MLS longer and more expensive. If you want to be involved in medicine or biological science an MLS degree provides numerous transferrable skills and knowledge that will prepare for multiple careers outside of laboratory medicine. I suggest joining a professional organization like American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science or American Society for Microbiology. They can be vital for professional growth and the networking opportunities.

Anything else you want to share?

"If you want a job anywhere in the country then the medical laboratory is for you. The situation is dire in terms of having enough medical laboratory employees."



Click on the image to learn about medical and clinical scientists and technicians

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tm2KBoKns78>



Scan Me



Click on the image for a personal account from a Medical Laboratory Scientist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfFywnXdkRw>



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