

Step Up to the Future as a

Medical Laboratory Technician

Medical Laboratory Technician Programs are Available at the Following Community Colleges:

College of the Canyons
De Anza College
Folsom Lake College (TBA)
Moreno Valley College (TBA)
Saddleback College
Southwestern College

Sources for Further Information About Medical Laboratory Technicians:

California Community
Colleges' Health Program
Directory (RHORCs)
<http://www.healthoccupations.org/ccchealth/>

California Association
for Medical Laboratory
Technology
(510) 792-4441
www.camlt.org

Health Care Careers
<http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/occmisc/HealthCareCareers.pdf>

American Society of Clinical
Pathology
(312) 738-1336
www.ascp.org/bor

Medical Laboratory Technician Licensing and Certifying Agencies:

Licensing California:
California Department of
Public Health Laboratory
Field Services
<https://secure.cps.ca.gov/cltreg/>

National Board Exam:

American Society for Clinical
Laboratory Science
(301) 657-2768
www.ascls.org

American Association of
Bioanalysts (AAB)
(314) 241-1445
<http://www.aab.org>

For more information, please contact one of the colleges listed above or explore the web resources. For additional information regarding this brochure please contact: North/Far North Regional Health Occupations Resource Center at (530) 879-9049.



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Medical Laboratory Technician



Step Up to the Future!



Facts About Medical Laboratory Technicians and Job Opportunities

According to the California Employment Development Department, the need for Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians in the health care industry is expected to increase by 17.1 percent from the years 2006-2016 with 340 average annual job openings in California.

Most Medical Laboratory Technicians have an Associate Degree from a community college.

To become a licensed Medical Laboratory Technician requires a degree from an accredited program (NAACLS) or approved program (LFS) which includes six months of clinical internship; passing a national exam and CA State law exam. A California Medical Laboratory Technician license is issued by the State of California, Department of Public Health and Laboratory Field Services Branch.

For additional information:
www.coecc.net/health

What does a Medical Laboratory Technician Do?

Medical Laboratory Technicians perform a variety of routine tests under the supervision of a Clinical Laboratory Scientist. These tests help doctors to diagnose and treat a variety of diseases. They perform blood counts, urinalysis, and test cells, tissues, blood and other specimens. Microscopes, automated blood analyzers and other laboratory equipment are commonly used by MLTs. Some Medical Laboratory Technicians are generalists and perform a wide variety of tests. Others specialize in a certain area such as cytology (study of cells), histology (tests on tissues) or blood banking. Some Medical Laboratory Technicians are also trained to collect blood samples.



Personal Characteristics and Working Conditions

- Detail oriented.
- Organized, accurate and careful, since a person's health depends on the accuracy of the tests.
- Desire to work in a laboratory setting.
- Willingness to work with blood samples and other physical specimens.
- Desire to work using microscopes, automated blood analyzers and other laboratory equipment.
- Ability to follow directions and order information.
- Good reading comprehension, communication skills and listening skills.
- Ability to see details, detect differences in color and have good hand eye coordination.
- Assertiveness to ask for help when unprepared to complete a requested task.

How Much Can I Earn?

The earnings of Medical Laboratory Technicians vary according to their education, skill level, years of experience and geographic location.

Salaries vary widely throughout California. In 2009, according to the EDD Labor Market Information Division, the median (mid point) hourly wage for Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians was \$18.75 in California with a median annual salary of \$39,013. In the Bay Area, median salaries ranged from \$46,139 in the East Bay Area to \$41,859 in the San Francisco Bay Area. In San Benito and Santa Clara Counties the median salary was \$47,914, while in Imperial County the median salary was \$26,524. Salaries are notably lower in other states in the U.S.

For more information on salaries go to: www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov

