

# CLINICAL ASSISTANT/LAB ASSISTANT

Clinical assistants perform basic laboratory testing in medical laboratories, working under the supervision of a medical technologist, medical laboratory technician, or pathologist. A clinical assistant collects and processes blood specimens and performs test procedures in chemistry, hematology, microbiology, and urinalysis. Clinical assistants may also perform and record vital signs.

With the changes in laboratory medicine and the economy, there is a need for a one-year assistant program to meet the needs of the future. This program may be taken by other allied health professionals to increase their repertoire of skills, or by individuals who want a career ladder. Individuals who complete this program may articulate into the two-year Medical Laboratory Technology program.

## Where do clinical assistants work in Alaska?



In rural Alaska, clinical assistants often are employed in regional hospitals or subregional clinics.



## Hourly Wage Range\*

**\$12.51-\$23.18 (Mean \$17.41)**

\*based on Alaska DOL data for Healthcare Support Worker

## Educational Requirements



- High school diploma or GED equivalency.
- High school biology and chemistry courses highly recommended.
- Post-secondary training in clinical laboratory assisting.



**Years in School:  
2 years or less**

\*after high school graduation

## Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage  
Contact: Heidi Mannion, Associate Professor  
Allied Health Science Building, Room 172  
Phone: (907) 786-6924  
Email: [afham@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afham@uaa.alaska.edu)  
Web site: [www.uaa.alaska.edu/ctc/programs/alliedhealth/medt/](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/ctc/programs/alliedhealth/medt/)

UAA offers an Occupational Endorsement Certificate for Clinical Assistants. Currently no national certification exam is available for clinical assistants.

## State and National Contacts

### State Contact:

Clinical Laboratory Scientists of Alaska (CLSA)  
Web site: <http://www.clsaonline.org>

### National Contacts:

American Society for Clinical Pathology  
Web site: <http://www.ascp.org>

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
Web site: <http://www.ascls.org>

American Medical Technologists  
Web site: <http://www.amt1.com>

National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel  
Web site: <http://www.nca-info.org>

Information from: [www.healthcareersinalaska.info](http://www.healthcareersinalaska.info) Updated: September 23, 2008



developed by Alaska Center for Rural Health-Alaska's AHEC: <http://nursing.uaa.alaska.edu/acrh/>