



## Medical Laboratory Technician

Medical laboratory technicians (MLTs) perform laboratory tests that are important in detecting, diagnosing, and treating diseases. They are part of a highly skilled team that works together to solve mysteries, put puzzles together and answer critical questions in medicine. A MLT performs tests to analyze blood, urine, tissue and other body specimens using sophisticated instruments. A MLT provides information to a doctor who needs the laboratory data to diagnose a patient's illness. More than 70% of medical decisions made by physicians are based on laboratory findings.

The information provided to the doctor is important in deciding what treatment is best for the patient and also in determining the prognosis of the patient's illness. In fact, the practice of modern medicine would be impossible without these laboratory tests.

Working under the supervision of a medical laboratory scientist, an MLT works closely with physicians, researchers, and other health care professionals, usually in a hospital laboratory setting. They are an important member of the health care team.

## Medical Laboratory Technician Facts:

### Where do medical laboratory technicians work in Alaska?

MLTs usually work in a hospital laboratory setting. Other employment situations include clinics, research labs, and public health facilities. Rural Alaska employment opportunities are generally found in regional hospitals.

### Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school, preferably with a background in science and math.
- Completion of a two-year accredited medical laboratory technician program. Community colleges usually offer these programs.
- Some medical laboratory technicians go on to complete more advanced medical programs to become medical technologists or physicians assistants.

### Hourly Wage Range:

\$13.17-\$34.80 (Mean \$21.40)

*\*based on Alaska DOL data*

### Years in School:

2 years (after high school graduation).

### Academic Programs in Alaska

The University of Alaska has a Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) program that prepares students for employment as medical laboratory technicians. Students receive an Associate of Applied Science degree and are eligible to sit for national certification exams. (This program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.)

For more information contact:

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### State Contact:

**Clinical Laboratory Scientists of Alaska (CLSA)**

Web site: <http://www.clsaonline.org>

### National Contacts:

**National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences**

Web site: <http://www.naacls.org/>

**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>

