

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST/CLINICAL LAB SCIENTIST

Medical technologists (MTs) are part of a highly skilled team that works together to solve mysteries, put puzzles together and answer critical questions in medicine. They supervise other laboratory personnel, such as medical laboratory technicians, and perform complex laboratory procedures that play an important role in the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of many diseases. MTs work in all areas of the clinical laboratory including blood banking, chemistry, hematology, immunology, and microbiology. They perform a full range of laboratory tests – from simple premarital blood tests, to more complex tests to uncover diseases such as HIV/AIDS, diabetes and cancer. MTs are also responsible for confirming the accuracy of test results, and reporting laboratory findings to pathologists and other physicians. The information provided helps decide what treatment is best for patients and also helps determine the prognosis of a patient's illness. In fact, the practice of modern medicine would be impossible without these laboratory tests.

In their professions, MTs play a role in developing and evaluating test systems and interpreting algorithms. Their diverse responsibilities include analysis and clinical decision-making, regulatory compliance, education and quality assurance in the laboratory. MTs are also involved with the financial operations, human resource management, and information management of the clinical laboratory.

Where do medical technologists work in Alaska?



Hospital laboratories in the regional hub communities employ most rural Alaska medical technologists. Private physicians, research programs, or local, state, and federal health agencies employ some technologists.



Hourly Wage Range*
\$19.36-\$39.07 (Mean \$30.23)

*based on Alaska DOL data



Years in School: 4*

*after high school graduation

Educational Requirements



Medical technologists have training beyond that of the medical laboratory technician, and may follow an educational program such as this:

- Graduation from high school, preferably with courses in biology, chemistry, math and computer science.
- Completion of a four-year bachelor's degree program in medical technology, biology, or chemistry.
- Completion of an additional year of clinical practice at an accredited health facility.

Academic Programs in Alaska

The University of Alaska Anchorage offers a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology. (This program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.) For more information contact:

University of Alaska Anchorage
Medical Laboratory Technology Department
Contact: Heidi Mannion
Phone: (907) 786-6924
Email: afham@uaa.alaska.edu

Web site: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/ctcnew/programs/alliedhealth/medlab/index.cfm>

State and National Contacts

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>

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

Information from: www.healthcareersinalaska.info

Updated: May 28, 2009



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