

Medical Laboratory Technologists

Description

Medical laboratory technologists conduct medical laboratory tests, experiments and analyses to assist in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. They are employed in medical laboratories in hospitals, blood banks, community and private clinics, research facilities and post-secondary educational institutions. Medical laboratory technologists who are supervisors are included in this unit group (Government of Canada).

Duties:

- Set up, operate and maintain laboratory equipment
- Conduct and interpret chemical analyses of blood, urine, and cerebrospinal and other body fluids
- Study blood cells and other tissues to determine their relation to various physiological and pathological conditions
- Prepare tissue sections for microscopic examinations using techniques to demonstrate special cellular tissue elements or other characteristics
- Perform and interpret blood group, type and compatibility tests for transfusion purposes
- Conduct quality control assessment of testing techniques
- May supervise and train other medical laboratory technical staff, students and helpers
- May assist pathologists during autopsies.

Other titles:

- Anatomical pathology technologist
- Biochemistry technologist – medical laboratory
- Clinical immunology technologist
- Cytology technologist
- Histology technologist
- Immunohematology technologist
- Medical laboratory technical supervisor
- Serology technologist

(Government of Canada National Occupation Classification)

Skills

Attention to detail	Accuracy	Communication skills	Cooperation	Computer skills	Mathematical skills
	Time-management	Problem-solving	Scientific method	Analytical thinking	

Education/Training Requirements

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

- Most college/university programs in Ontario require an OSSD or Mature Student Status

Post-secondary diploma/degree

- Two or three-year college program in medical laboratory technology
- Ontario colleges offering relevant programs: Centennial College, St. Clair College, St. Lawrence College, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Northern College, the Michener Institute
- A period of supervised practical training may also be required

Certification

- Registration with Ontario regulatory body
- Certification is usually required by employers

Potential Earnings in Durham Region

The average and median wages and salaries for individuals employed as medical laboratory technologists are as follows. Place of Residence (POR) is defined as individuals who reside within the Durham Region. Place of Work (POW) is defined as individuals who are employed within the Durham Region.

Median Wages and Salaries (POW)	Average Wages and Salaries (POW)	Median Wages and Salaries (POR)	Average Wages and Salaries (POR)
\$62,103	\$61,065	\$71,801	\$63,760

Employment Prospects

Industry (NAICS)	Jobs in Durham Region (POW)	Durham Region Residents Employed (POR)
6215 Medical and diagnostic laboratories	15	25

(Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development 2016 data in Durham Workforce Authority's 2017 Health & BioScience Sector Report)

Additional Resources

- Ontario Society of Medical Technologists: <https://www.osmt.org/Apps/Pages/osmt-certification>
- Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science: <https://www.csmls.org/>