

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

Medical laboratory science combines the use of sophisticated instruments and techniques with the application of theoretical knowledge to perform complex procedures on tissue specimens, blood samples and other body fluids. The tests and procedures that Medical Laboratory Technologists perform provide critical information enabling physicians to diagnose, treat and monitor a patient's condition.

MEDICAL LABORATORY
TECHNOLOGIST
MEDICAL LABORATORY
ASSISTANT

medical laboratory technologist

With the use of microscopes, chemical analyzers and other high-tech instruments, Medical Laboratory Technologists detect and diagnose illness by carefully analyzing samples of patients' tissues and bodily fluids and conveying what they find to a patient's doctor. This field of study requires an in-depth understanding of the biological and chemical sciences.

Approximate salary:

\$26.97 – \$32.84 per hour

Academic requirements:

- Completion of High School or equivalent with the requisite academic courses Completion of either a 3 year general Medical Laboratory Technologist

program. Upon completion of study, an individual is required to write the national certification exam which is administered through the Canadian Society for Laboratory Science.

- Once an individual has passed the national certification examination they must register with the Nova Scotia College of Medical Laboratory Technologists.

Educational institute(s) in Nova Scotia offering a program:

- Nova Scotia Community College — 3 year program
- Dalhousie University — Offers a post diploma program to complete a bachelor of Health Science degree. The curriculum is equivalent to two years of full-time university study.

Interesting Fact:

"It has been estimated that 75% of medical diagnostic decisions are made on the basis of laboratory results."

Work in hospitals, public and private laboratories, research and industries labs and pharmaceutical companies.

medical lab assistant

Medical laboratory assistants work under the supervision of pathologists, or a licensed medical laboratory technologists. The responsibilities of the medical laboratory assistant can vary from collecting various specimens such as blood and urine specimens, phlebotomy data entry, sorting specimens, transporting and receiving specimens specialized plating, and loading analyzers and various other pre-analytical procedures. In addition, the medical laboratory assistant uses quality assurance procedures to ensure laboratory policies and procedures are being followed. Strong communication skills are required as interaction with patient and other healthcare professionals are a key role.



Approximate salary:

\$20.28 – \$22.97 per hour

Academic requirements:

- High School Diploma or Equivalency
- Geometry and Applications in Mathematics 112 and Functions and Relations 112
- One (1) additional science from the following:
 - Biology 112 or 122; Chemistry 112 or 122; Physics 112 or 122

Educational institute(s) in Nova Scotia offering a program:

Currently there is no schools in Nova Scotia that offer a program. Although there are numerous schools in Ontario and British Columbia that offer a program, listed are the requirements to the Medical Laboratory Assistant program at the New Brunswick Community College.

