

Medical Laboratory Technician* (AAS Non-Transfer Degree)

Health Science Career Cluster

SAN JUAN COLLEGE

NATURE OF WORK

Medical laboratory technicians (MLT) are essential members of the healthcare team. They are the detectives that analyze blood and other body fluids uncovering and providing clues that assist physicians and other health care practitioners in diagnosing disease, assessing state of health, and monitoring therapy. The MLT employs sophisticated biomedical instruments, modern technology, and computers in their work. The MLT may work in a variety of sections in the laboratory or they may specialize in a single area as clinical chemistry, hematology, immunology, immunohematology, microbiology or molecular biology.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Hospital and physician offices employ medical laboratory technicians. Work schedules may require nights, weekends, holidays and on call shifts. Various health settings require following specific rules when working around blood, other infections materials, chemicals, and electrical and medical equipment.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

A career as a MLT typically requires completion of an associate degree program integrating general education, science and clinical laboratory courses. The MLT curriculum addresses the theoretical and practical aspects of each of the major laboratory disciplines. Clinical laboratory scientists or medical laboratory technologists complete a baccalaureate degree program that includes more in depth courses. Upon completion of a program, a student is eligible to take one of the national certification examinations. Masters and doctoral programs are available. Being well organized and detail oriented is essential to the profession. Other skills that are needed include manual dexterity, effective communication, the ability to work independently and to problem solve.

JOB OUTLOOK

The growth rate for employment in the clinical laboratory is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations. The volume of laboratory tests continues to increase with both population growth and development of new tests. Currently there is a shortage in many parts of the country bringing higher salaries for graduates. The clinical laboratory science professional's analytical, scientific and technical skills are valuable and desired assets.

Updated as of May 5, 2008

CAREER OPTIONS

Medical Laboratory Technician, Clinical Laboratory Technologist

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

New Mexico— \$31,090-50,000—Mean \$36,170
Nationally — \$26,430-\$50,250—Mean \$34.620

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Apheresis Technician, Donor Phlebotomy Technician, Histotechnician, Phlebotomy Technician, Pathologists' Assistant, Cytotechnologist, Histotechnologist, Clinical Laboratory Scientist, Molecular Pathology, Chemist, Hemapheresis Practitioner, Hematology, Microbiology, Veterinary Technician

SJC Basic Program Information

Complete General Education Requirements before entering the major. Have a college cumulative GPA of 2.75 or better

Complete the foundation courses of Math 115, Chem 110, Chem 210, Biol 252, Biol 253, Biol 224 with a minimum grade of C, and complete MLTS 120 and MLTS 160 with a minimum grade of B.

For further information go to:

www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp

Click on AAS link under Career Programs

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos096.htm

www.careers-nm.org



*Most of this information is from San Juan College's Medical Laboratory Technician Program Director