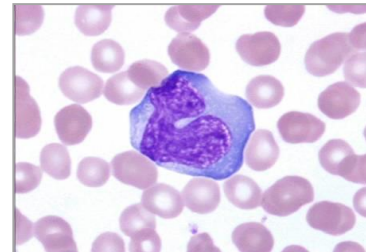


Beaumont

Medical Laboratory Scientist

*You don't have to be a doctor or nurse
to work in a hospital.*



A medical laboratory scientist, also referred to as a medical technologist, is an allied health professional who is qualified by academic and clinical training to perform complex analytical tests in a clinical laboratory. These clinical laboratories may be associated with a hospital, private commercial lab or governmental agency.

The medical laboratory scientist is a vital healthcare detective, uncovering and providing laboratory information from laboratory analyses that assist physicians in patient diagnosis and treatment, as well as in disease monitoring or prevention (maintenance of health). With the use of sophisticated skills and advanced instrumentation, medical laboratory scientists determine the levels of chemicals in blood and body fluid, classify cells for abnormalities, identify bacteria and viruses that cause infection and uncover markers for cancer and inherited genetic diseases. In addition, they confirm the accuracy of test results and provide monitors for therapy.

Individuals interested in a career in medical laboratory science must have a keen interest in science and mathematics and enjoy problem solving. They must work well under pressure, be organized to finish a task once started, expect quality in their work and be able to work with minimal supervision. Patient contact is limited. To prepare for a career in medical laboratory science, a student must have a bachelor's degree in science plus clinical education in an accredited medical laboratory science program.

Career Preparation:

To prepare for a career in medical laboratory science, an individual must complete a baccalaureate degree with coursework in various laboratory science subjects AND clinical training in an accredited medical laboratory science program.

The **Beaumont Health 44-week Medical Laboratory Science program** is a hospital-based, NAACLS accredited program designed for post-B.S. degree candidates who do typically not possess a major in medical laboratory science. The curriculum will provide the necessary didactic education and hands-on laboratory training required for entry-level practice in a clinical laboratory.

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will receive a certificate which qualifies them to be eligible to take the national Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) certification examination offered by the ASCP Board of Certification.

For more information on **accredited programs** in Medical Laboratory Science, contact:

National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences > www.naaccls.org

Wage and Vacancy Information:

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor** projects that the employment of medical laboratory technicians and scientists will increase by 7% through the year 2029, faster than the average for all occupations.
- In 2020, the median annual salary for medical laboratory technologists working in a medical hospital clinical laboratory was about **\$54,180**. (or \$26.05 per hour). This will vary based on geographic location and work setting. (This is the wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than this amount and half earned less.)

** Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/clinical-laboratory-technologists-and-technicians.htm>

Last accessed: 6/28/21

Career Ladder Information:

- Numerous job roles exist in the clinical laboratory including: Medical Laboratory Scientists, Medical Laboratory Technicians, Technologist in Cytogenetics, Histotechnologists, Molecular Biologists and Clinical Specialists (additional certification), Pathologists' Assistants (MS degree), Technical Directors in Chemistry and Microbiology (PhD) and Pathologists (MD).
- For detailed role and responsibility descriptions, visit **Lab Tests Online - Medical Laboratory Professionals: Who's Who in the Lab.** <https://labtestsonline.org/articles/medical-laboratory-professionals>

Additional Information:

For a photo tour describing the role of a Beaumont MLS graduate in our Beaumont, Royal Oak Clinical Pathology laboratories, please view the presentation:

[“Day in the Life of a Beaumont Medical Laboratory Scientist”](#)

To learn more about the **career** of Medical Laboratory Science, visit:

- **American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) > Careers**
www.ascp.org > <https://www.ascp.org/content/careers/learn-about-careers>
- **American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) > Careers**
<http://www.ascls.org/what-is-a-medical-laboratory-science-professional>

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