
WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

[The Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) \(2013\)](#) explains, “Medical laboratory technologists (also known as medical laboratory scientists) and medical laboratory technicians collect samples and perform the tests to analyze body fluids, tissue, and other substances”. The [UNM Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences website \(2013\)](#) states, “Medical Laboratory Sciences or Medical Technology is the rapidly expanding health profession of clinical laboratory medicine”. There have been remarkable advances in medical research in the past few decades and Medical Laboratory Science professionals have played a key role in these advances. “The Medical Technologist is a professional clinical laboratory scientist who, as a member of the health care team, is responsible for providing essential testing services in the fields of Clinical Chemistry, Clinical Hematology, Clinical Microbiology, Urinalysis, Blood Banking and Serology” [UNM Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences website \(2013\)](#).

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

A Bachelor’s degree is the minimum formal education required for Medical laboratory technologists ([BLS, 2013](#)). Additionally, some states require technologists and technicians to be licensed ([BLS, 2013](#)). A Master’s degree is usually required for research and teaching. Medical laboratory personnel may or may not be required to attain licensure in the state in which they practice, which involves passing an examination. Consult [O*Net](#) for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skills, Abilities) that are required for this career.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:

The UNM Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences offers both a Bachelors of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences as well as a Masters of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences. You can find further information on the [UNM Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences website \(2013\)](#).

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:

A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s [Lobo Career Connection](#) for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the [UNM Office of Career Services](#) for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Healthcare:

Hospital labs, physician offices, nurse, physician, physician assistant

Public Health:

Occupational health and safety, community health workers, environmental testing

Education/Research:

Research laboratories and institutes, University/college teaching/administration, researcher, biotechnology firms, cytogenetic laboratories, paternity testing labs, insurance testing labs, biomedical equipment design and repair

Management:

Administrator/Manager

Government:

City, state and national crime labs, National Institutes of Health, Armed Services

Information Technology:

Laboratory information systems

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:

- Gain related professional experience through involvement in internships, student employment, [Co-ops](#), and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Shadow professionals in the field to gain a better understanding of the occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
- Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find organizations and events at the [Student Activities Center website](#).
- Attend career related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.

- Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
- Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
- Job leads can be found on your department's website, list-servs, newsletters, and social media sites.

STATE AND NATIONAL WAGES:

[Adapted from CareerOneStop \(2013\)](#)

MEDICAL AND CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS

	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	\$39,600	\$48,600	\$57,600	\$68,900	\$78,900
New Mexico	\$30,100	\$41,700	\$52,700	\$61,700	\$71,200

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

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| American Association of Bioanalysts (AAB) | www.aab.org |
| American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) | www.aabb.org |
| American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) | www.ascls.org |
| American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) | www.ascp.org |
| American Society for Cytopathology (ACS) | www.cytopathology.org |
| Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA) | www.clma.org |
| National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) | www.naacls.org |
| National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA) | www.nca-info.org |



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

REFERENCES

- Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, (2012, April 6). *Occupational Outlook Handbook, Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists*. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-and-clinical-laboratory-technologists-and-technicians>
- State of Minnesota, U. S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (2013). CareerOneStop, Occupation Profile, Dental Hygienists. Retrieved from www.careerinfonet.org
- University of New Mexico, Department of Medical Laboratory Science (2013). *The Profession of Medical Laboratory Sciences*. Retrieved from <http://pathology.unm.edu/medical-laboratory-sciences/>