Clinical Laboratory Sciences

What do clinical laboratory technologists do?
Clinical laboratory technologists, also known as clinical laboratory scientists or medical technologists; and clinical laboratory technicians, also referred to as medical technicians or medical laboratory technicians, analyze body fluids, tissue and other substances, using a variety of tests.

Clinical laboratory technologists/technicians:
- Perform complex medical and clinical laboratory testing used in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of diseases
- Microscopically examine blood, tissue and other body substances
- Make cultures of body fluid and tissue samples to determine the presence of bacteria, fungi, parasites or other microorganisms
- Analyze samples for chemical content or a chemical reaction and determine blood glucose and cholesterol levels
- Evaluate test results, develop and modify procedures and establish and monitor programs to ensure accuracy of tests

Where do clinical laboratory technologists work?
Work is often performed in clean, well-lit laboratories. Schedules vary with size and type of employer, although rotating shifts and evening, weekend or holiday hours may be common. Personnel may be on-call for emergencies.

Clinical laboratory personnel are trained to work with infectious specimens. Protective masks, gloves and goggles are often necessary to ensure the safety of laboratory personnel.

How do I get a job in clinical laboratory sciences?
After high school...
There are a variety of paths to becoming a clinical laboratory scientist. One of those paths includes achieving a bachelor’s degree in medical technology or in a life science. It is also possible to qualify through a combination of education, on-the-job and specialized training. Both universities and hospitals offer medical technology programs.

Clinical laboratory technicians must earn an associate’s degree from a community or junior college. They can also obtain a certificate from a hospital, vocational or technical school or one of the U.S. Armed Forces. A few technicians learn skills on the job.

Voluntary certification is available for all qualified medical laboratory employees.

Is this the career for me?
Clinical laboratory employees need good analytical judgment and the ability to work well under pressure. Close attention to detail is essential, because small differences or changes in test substances or numerical readouts can be crucial for patient care. With the widespread use of automated laboratory equipment, computer skills are also important. In addition, technologists in particular are expected to be good at problem solving.

How much money do people in clinical laboratory sciences make?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average Annual Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Technologists</td>
<td>$43,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Technicians</td>
<td>$32,739</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Will I be able to get a job in Pennsylvania?
There is an average of 194 job openings each year for clinical laboratory technologists and 300 jobs for technicians in Pennsylvania each year.
Where do I go for more information?

www.pahealthcareers.org

Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers

901 North Seventh Street
Suite 103
Harrisburg, PA 17102

Telephone: 717-772-4966
Fax: 717-783-4660
E-mail: RA-LI-PAWIB@state.pa.us