

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

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Job Description

A Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) performs laboratory tests in all clinical areas represented in the laboratory. Working under the supervision of a Medical Laboratory Scientist, a Medical Laboratory Technician hunts for clues to the absence, presence, extent, and causes of diseases. They examine and analyze samples of patient's body fluids such as blood, urine, and cerebrospinal fluid to provide critical information to the physician for accurate patient diagnosis. Career opportunities exist in hospitals, clinics, reference laboratories, physician's offices, and research laboratories.

Program Description

The College of Southern Nevada's Medical Laboratory Technician Program is a two-year course of study that prepares students to work in all areas of the laboratory (i.e., hematology, chemistry, blood bank, immunology, microbiology, and urinalysis). Courses in each of the disciplines mentioned above are presented in both lecture and laboratory format. (Additionally, students will be assigned to local laboratories to obtain clinical experience.) Upon successful completion of the program, the student is awarded an Associate of Applied Science Degree and becomes eligible to take a national certification exam. Students who pass the certifying examination are eligible for Nevada licensure as a Medical Laboratory Technician.

Accepted Students

Students accepted into the program will be required to show proof of health insurance and immunization against Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis. In addition, proof of a negative TB skin test and negative urine drug screen will be required prior to the first scheduled practicum/clinical experience. A physical examination must also be completed. An official background check is also required.

Prospective students are advised that a prior felony conviction may preclude subsequent licensure to practice as an MLT in Nevada (NRS 652.220).

Approximate Salary in Nevada

Nevada Mean Annual Wage	\$46,350
Nevada Mean Hourly Wage	\$22.29
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics	

Essential observational, movement, communication and behavioral requirements for MLTs.

The MLT student must be able to:

- Observe laboratory demonstrations in which biologicals (i.e., fluids, culture materials, tissue sections, and cellular specimens) are tested for their biochemical, hematological, immunological, microbiological, and histochemical components.
- Characterize the color, odor, clarity, and viscosity of biologicals, reagents, or chemical reaction products.
- Employ a clinical grade binocular microscope to discriminate among fine structural and color (hue, shading, and intensity) differences of microscopic specimens.
- Read and comprehend text, numbers, and graphs displayed in print and on a video monitor.
- Move freely and safely about a laboratory.
- Reach laboratory benchtops and shelves, patients lying in hospital beds, or patients seated in specimen collection furniture.
- Travel to numerous clinical laboratory sites for practical experience.

Approximate Costs

(Costs are subject to change)

Tuition:

66 credits x \$106.75 per credit hr	\$7045.50
Technology Fee per credit hr	\$8.50
Student Union Fee per credit hr	\$9.00
Athletics & Recreation Fee per credit hr.....	\$2.00
Books.....	\$1610.00
Lab Fees	\$200.00
Lab Coat.....	\$35.00
Physical Exam.....	\$50.00 - \$75.00
Immunizations.....	\$0 - \$600.00
Urine Drug Screen.....	\$40.00
Background Check.....	\$50.00
Document Manager.....	\$35.00
Medical Insurance.....	\$20.00-\$190.00/month

Applies only if you are presently uninsured.

License/Certification:

Nevada License	\$113.00
National Certification.....	\$150.00
College Application Fee.....	\$20.00
New Student Fee	\$20.00
Limited Entry Application Fee.....	\$20.00
Non-resident Fee	\$3738.50 per semester

This is in addition to the tuition and technology fee and is assessed to nonresident students enrolling in 7 or more credit hours.

- Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work, often requiring prolonged sitting, over several hours.
- Maneuver phlebotomy and culture acquisition equipment to safely collect valid laboratory specimens from patients.
- Control laboratory equipment (i.e., pipettes, inoculating loops, test tubes).
- Use an electronic keyboard to operate laboratory instruments and to calculate record, evaluate, and transmit laboratory information.
- Read and comprehend technical and professional materials.
- Follow verbal and written instructions in order to correctly and independently perform laboratory test procedures.
- Effectively, confidentially, and sensitively converse with patient regarding laboratory tests.
- Communicate with faculty members, fellow students, staff, and other health care professionals verbally and in recorded format (writing, typing, graphics, or telecommunication).
- Independently prepare papers, laboratory reports, and take written, computer, and laboratory practical examinations.
- Be able to manage the use of time and be able to systemize actions in order to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic constraints.
- Possess the emotional health necessary to effectively employ intellect and exercise appropriate judgment.
- Be able to provide professional and technical services while experiencing the stresses of task-related uncertainty.
- Be flexible and creative and adapt to professional and technical changes.
- Recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment, and situations and proceed safely in order to minimize risk of injury to patients, self, and nearby individuals.

The information provided in this literature is for advisement purposes only.

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