

Quick Guides to the Health Professions

Medical Laboratory Technologists

What is a medical laboratory technologist?

A medical laboratory technologist (MLT) holds a BSc in Medical Laboratory Science including a one-year clinical placement.

What do medical laboratory technologists do?

Using a variety of complex instruments, they analyze tissue samples, blood, and other body fluids as a part of the diagnostic procedure. MLTs provide the results of these sophisticated tests to physicians, allowing them to make accurate diagnosis and, if needed, appropriate treatment.

Where do medical laboratory technologists work?

MLTs are employed in a variety of laboratory settings: hospital laboratories; research facilities; public health departments; pharmaceutical laboratories; veterinary, agricultural, industrial, government, or private laboratories; post-secondary institutions; and scientific supply companies.

Education and preparation

Medical Laboratory Science students complete a 4-year BSc program, beginning with a pre-professional year followed by a year of medical laboratory theoretical study, a practical or clinical year, and a year of additional courses and a research project. After completing the degree, students write a certification exam to become licensed MLTs.

Licensure

In Alberta, practicing MLTs must be certified by the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) and have a practice permit from the College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Alberta.

Professional organizations

College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Alberta
<http://cmlta.org>

Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science
<http://www.csmls.org>

Contributors to this guide

College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Alberta
<http://cmlta.org>



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