

Career Profile

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST

What is a Medical Laboratory Technologist? - Career Description/Scope

A Medical Laboratory Technologist is a regulated health professional who performs laboratory investigations on the human body or on specimens taken from the human body and evaluates the technical sufficiency of the investigations and their results.

Education Requirements to Work in Ontario/at TBRHSC

- Advanced Diploma – three years College
- Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) – four years University

Programs consist of didactic (classroom) training as well as a minimum of one year clinical placement.

Medical Laboratory Technologist Practice Requirements

To practice in Ontario, Medical Laboratory Technologists must be registered with the College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario and perform the following requirements:

- Entry to Practice
 - Licensing exam to obtain general certification from the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science
- Ongoing
 - Participation in the College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario quality assurance program – Professional Portfolio, Practice Review, Professional Practice Learning Program and Competence Evaluation

How does a Medical Laboratory Technologist Practice at TBRHSC?

- Following the orders of a physician, Medical Laboratory Technologists perform patient work in one or more of the seven specialties of Medical Laboratory Technology. They work to scope of practice as outlined by various legislation and authorities including:
 - College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario
 - Laboratory & Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act
 - Regulated Health Professions Act
 - Medical Laboratory Technology Act
 - Public Hospitals Act

What does a Medical Laboratory Technologist Do?

Perform laboratory investigations and evaluate the technical sufficiency of the investigations and their results, in the specialties of:

- Biochemistry (Clinical Chemistry): Large array of tests involving the measurement of chemical constituents in blood and body fluids to evaluate organ function, toxicology, therapeutic drug monitoring, and to detect chemicals, endocrinology and other special tests.
- Cytology: The study of 'free' cells, their origin, structure, function, and pathology.
- Flow Cytometry: The study of bone marrows, lymph node/tissue specimens for Lymphoma & Leukemia.
- Hematology: The study of normal and/or abnormal functions of blood cells, blood forming tissues and blood coagulation (Homeostasis).
- Histology: The preparation and study of tissue specimens.
- Microbiology: The study of microorganisms, including bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites.
- Transfusion Services: The testing for blood types, antibody detection, and compatibility testing (perinatal/neonatal and blood components). Also called Immunohematology or Blood Banking.

Web Resources

- College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario www.cmlto.com
- Ontario Society of Medical Technologists www.osmt.org
- Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science www.csmls.org