

# Laboratory Science Profession

## Profession in high demand

- Numerous and varied job opportunities
  - Phlebotomist
  - Laboratory Assistant
  - Medical Laboratory Technician
  - Medical Laboratory Scientist / Medical Technologist
  - Cytotechnologist
  - Histology Technician
  - Histology Technologist
  - Cytogeneticist
  - Molecular biologist
- Profession ranked in the top 18 of “best jobs” in comprehensive national survey
- Positions available for Master degree and PhD level practitioners
- Unlimited choice of practice settings: hospital, reference laboratory, physician office, research, industry, biotechnology, education....

## Career Description

Medical laboratory professionals perform laboratory tests necessary to provide information for use by physicians in detecting, diagnosing or treating diseases. They are vital members of the health care team; 70-80% of all clinical diagnosis is based, in some way, on laboratory test results.

## Training and Requirements

The minimum education requirements for the **Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) / Medical Technologist (MT)** is the completion of a Bachelor’s Degree program, which includes three to four years of course work plus a clinical experience in an accredited educational program in clinical laboratory science. Academic course work is available at Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Pacific Lutheran University, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University, the University of Washington and Washington State University. The education programs providing the clinical experience are Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center, the University of Washington, and Heritage University CLS Program.

The most common training for the **Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT)** is a two-year Associate Degree program. In Washington, training for MLT-AD is available



at Clover Park Technical College, Shoreline Community College and Wenatchee Valley College. Wenatchee Valley College also has regional programs located in Spokane, Omak, Tri-Cities, Pendleton, Walla Walla, and Moses Lake.

There are no schools for **Cytotechnology (CT)** in Washington at the current time. Information about Cytotechnology can be obtained from the American Society for Cytotechnology at [www.asct.com](http://www.asct.com). Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood has an associate degree histology technician program. Information can be found at <http://www.cptc.edu/wrl.asp?iSRN=11073&t=wrl>. The National Society for Histotechnology at [www.nsh.org](http://www.nsh.org) can also provide information on Histotechnology careers.

Information on **cytogenetics** training, can be obtained from the Association of Genetic Technologists at [www.agt-info.org](http://www.agt-info.org).

## Skills needed include:

- Aptitude for science course work
- Good eye/hand coordination and manual dexterity
- Good communication abilities
- Ability to work with precision and accuracy
- Ability to problem solve
- Ability to work well under pressure
- Ability to work as a team player

# Training Programs In Washington State

## Medical Laboratory Science / Medical Technologist Programs (Bachelor Degree):

### Heritage University CLS Program

3240 Fort Road  
Toppenish, WA 98948

Contact: Terese Abreu  
Phone: (509) 454-6100  
e-mail: [clinicallab@heritage.edu](mailto:clinicallab@heritage.edu)  
Website: <http://www.heritage.edu/FutureStudents/UndergraduatePrograms/tabid/166/Default.aspx>

### Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center

School of Medical Technology  
101 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99220

Contact: Cynthia Hamby  
Phone: (509) 474-3382  
e-mail: [cynthia.hamby@providence.org](mailto:cynthia.hamby@providence.org)  
Website: <http://www.shmclab.org>

### University of Washington

Medical Technology Program  
Department of Laboratory Medicine  
Box 357110  
Seattle, WA 98195

Contact: Cara Calvo  
Phone: (206) 598-0428  
e-mail: [calvo@u.washington.edu](mailto:calvo@u.washington.edu)  
Website: <http://depts.washington.edu/medtech>

## Medical Laboratory Technician Programs (Associate Degree):

### Clover Park Technical College

Medical Laboratory Technician Program  
4500 Steilacom Blvd. SW  
Lakewood, WA 98499-4098

Contact: Mikelle Newry  
Phone: (253) 589-5625  
e-mail: [mikelle.newry@cptc.edu](mailto:mikelle.newry@cptc.edu)  
Website: [http://www.cptc.edu/index.php/programs/degrees\\_certificates/medical\\_laboratory\\_technician/](http://www.cptc.edu/index.php/programs/degrees_certificates/medical_laboratory_technician/)

### Shoreline Community College

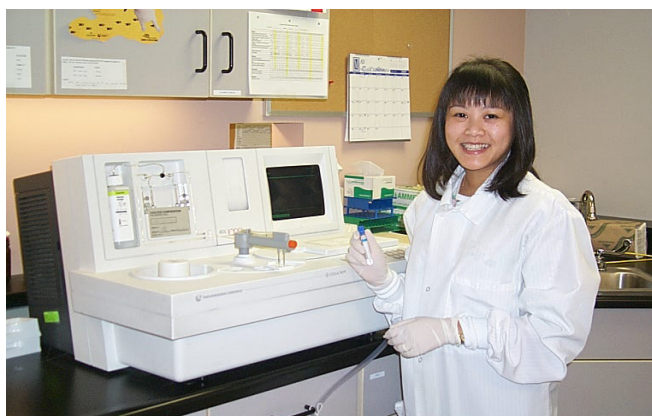
Medical Laboratory Technology Program  
16101 Greenwood Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98133-5696

Contact: Molly Morse  
Phone: (206) 546-6947  
e-mail: [mmorse@shoreline.edu](mailto:mmorse@shoreline.edu)  
Website: <https://www.shoreline.edu/MedicalLab01.aspx>

### Wenatchee Valley College

Medical Laboratory Technician Program  
1300 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Contact: Pamela Wilson-McNamara  
Phone: (509) 682-6668  
e-mail: [pwilson-mcnamara@wvc.edu](mailto:pwilson-mcnamara@wvc.edu)  
Website: <http://www.wvc.edu/go/mlt>



*Prepared by the Washington State Department of Health, Washington State Clinical Laboratory Advisory Council, Providence Sacred Heart School of Medical Technology, University of Washington Medical Technology Program, Heritage University Clinical Laboratory Science Program, Clover Park Technical College Medical Laboratory Technician Program, Shoreline Community College Medical Laboratory Technology Program, and Wenatchee Valley College Medical Laboratory Technician Program.*

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