

LABORATORY SERVICES

NATURE OF THE WORK

Medical laboratory technologists may collect blood and other samples from patients. They conduct laboratory tests, experiments and analyses to assist in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. Activities may include conducting chemical analysis of blood, urine, and other body fluids; performing blood group, type and compatibility tests for transfusion purposes and training other laboratory workers.

Medical laboratory assistants may collect blood and other samples from patients, log patient samples and prepare them for testing. They also conduct routine medical laboratory tests and set up, clean and maintain medical laboratory equipment under the supervision of a technologist.

HIGH SCHOOL PREREQUISITES

- Students will have completed a minimum of five university preparatory grade XII level courses with an overall average of 75 percent or higher and no individual grade below 70 percent.
- Grade XII academic English with a grade level of 70 percent or higher and grade XI academic mathematics are required together with at least two grade XII sciences; biology, chemistry or physics.

OTHER PREREQUISITES

- Admission to the program requires inoculation for protection against Hepatitis B infection.

REQUIREMENTS

Medical laboratory technologists need a two to three year program in Medical Laboratory Technology and a period of supervised, relevant work experience or a Medical Laboratory Science Degree.

To be certified, technologists must successfully complete the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science national exams and be licensed by the Nova Scotia College of Medical Laboratory Technologists.

WHERE THE PROGRAM IS OFFERED

(Lab Technologists)

Nova Scotia Community College has an agreement with the New Brunswick Community College to guarantee seats in the 89-week Medical Laboratory Technology Diploma program at the St. John Campus. You must apply through the NSCC Institute of Technology Campus.

Contact Information

Nova Scotia Community College - Institute of Technology
5685 Leeds Street, PO Box 2210
Halifax NS B3J 3C4
Telephone: 902-491-6722

New Brunswick Community College
PO Box 2270
Saint John NB E2L 3V1
Telephone: 506-658-6675
Fax: 506-643-2853
E-mail: cathy.moran-robinson@gnb.ca
www.saintjohn.nbcc.nb.ca

Dalhousie University in partnership with the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Education offers a four year Bachelor of Health Science degree. The program has a two year specialty stream in Medical Laboratory Technology (post diploma only) and a four year Bachelor in Diagnostic Cytology, with a diploma option after three years of study.

Contact Information

QEII/Dalhousie School of Health Sciences
Bethune Building, Office 640
1278 Tower Road
Halifax NS B3H 2Y9

Telephone: 902-473-5510
E-mail: www.qe2-hsc.ns.ca
www.dal.ca

WHERE THE PROGRAM IS OFFERED

(Lab Assistants)

The Nova Scotia Community College offers a Medical Laboratory Assistant program, however, it is not part of their regular program/course curriculum. Please contact the NSCC to confirm when and where this program is being offered.

Contact Information

Nova Scotia Community College
PO Box 220
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4
Telephone: 866-679-6722
Fax: 866-329-6722
Email: admissions@nsc.ca
www.nsc.ca

EARNING POTENTIAL

Medical Laboratory Technologist Salary Scale - 2008

\$44,632 - \$54,341

Medical Laboratory Assistant Salary Scale - 2008

\$34,987 - \$39,634

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLT) which is the national certifying body is promoting a degree requirement for entry-level positions by 2010. This will phase out the diploma programs described above.

GENERAL

This work demands close attention to detail. You must have good manual dexterity and be comfortable working instruments and technology. Good communication skills and the ability to cooperate with others are important. You should be responsible, dependable and willing to keep pace with rapid developments in the field.

For additional information please visit www.nscmlt.org & www.csmls.org