



Explore a Career as a LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST OR TECHNICIAN

Target Occupation Profile

What do Laboratory Technologists and Technicians do?

Medical and clinical laboratory technologists and technicians are highly skilled scientists who discover the presence or absence of disease and provide data that helps physicians determine the best treatment for the patient. Although they are not often personally involved with patients, laboratory technologists and technicians play a crucial role in the process of providing personalized care. Using sophisticated biomedical instrumentation and technology, as well as highly skilled manual techniques, medical and clinical laboratory professionals examine and analyze body fluids, tissues and cells, as well as identify infective microorganisms.

Laboratory Technologists and Technicians are in demand in Cook County!

Cook County employment of laboratory technologists and technicians is expected to increase through 2020.

Training & Educational Opportunities

To become a laboratory technician, you will need to earn a certificate or associate degree. Technologists generally require a bachelor degree. Coursework includes classes in chemistry, biology, microbiology, math and statistics. Coursework will emphasize and provide hands-on practice for laboratory skills, including safety procedures and lab management.

As a Laboratory Technologist or Technician you will:

- Analyze body fluids, such as blood, urine and tissue samples, and record normal or abnormal findings
- Discuss results and findings of laboratory tests and procedures with physicians
- Operate sophisticated laboratory equipment, such as microscopes and cell counters
- Use automated equipment and computerized instruments capable of performing a number of tests at the same time

Laboratory Technologist or Technician

Training Providers

There are many training providers available in Cook County to supply you with the training you need for a career as a laboratory technologist or technician.

To access a list of training providers for these occupations and many more, please visit Illinoisworknet.com and select the 'Training and Credentials' menu option to view 'WIOA Approved Training Programs.'



Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire laboratory technologists and technicians in Cook County, including:

- Biotechnology companies
- Colleges, universities and schools
- Doctor offices
- Fertility clinics
- Hospitals
- Medical and diagnostic laboratories
- Research and teaching institutions
- Transplant and blood donor centers

Wages & Openings

Laboratory Technologist and Technician Employment Data for Cook County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$16.87
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$26.16
Average Annual Job Openings Cook County	219
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	158

Opportunities

After earning your certificate or degree as a laboratory technologist or technician, you will have many opportunities for advancement. Some opportunities include:

- Laboratory Manager
- Laboratory Technician Supervisor
- Clinical Laboratory Scientist



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