Employment Opportunities

A medical technologist has several career options. He/she can work as a laboratory scientist in a Clinical Laboratory, as a teacher in the medical technology program, as a researcher, or a product specialist marketing diagnostic supplies, reagents, equipment or pharmaceutical products.

The practice of medical technology is one of the robust and dynamic healthcare professions. The development and emergence of new types of tests and technologies is prospering. There is greater demand for better and personalized and customized care, and the population is growing. Given this world-wide situation, there is an increasing need for laboratory tests all over the world. As such, the medical technologist is a major player in the delivery of healthcare services both in the local and international setting.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

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Medical Technologist

A medical technologist is a healthcare professional involved with laboratory investigations of specimens taken from the human body. Examinations or tests on biological specimens such as, but not limited to blood, urine, stool and other body fluids, are performed for the purpose of aiding physicians evaluate, diagnose, manage, treat and monitor patients. Information given by a medical technologist to a physician is vital for patient care.

A medical technologist works with equipment such as microscopes, analyzers of different complexities, other precision instruments, and computers.

Functions

- Applies knowledge of theory and principles related to clinical laboratory testing
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- Performs hematologic, chemical, microscopic, microbiologic, parasitologic, immunologic, immunohematologic, blood banking, histopathologic and cytologic laboratory procedures
- Performs phlebotomy or blood collection and processes and/or preserves biologic specimens prior to analysis
- Follows established procedures for collecting and processing biological specimens for analysis
- Performs quality control and ensures compliance to quality assurance guidelines and standards
- Evaluates and solves problems related to collection and processing of biological specimens for analysis
- Differentiates and resolves technical, instrument, physiologic causes of problems or unexpected test results
- Performs documentation and maintains records of laboratory testing
- Uses verbal and nonverbal communication skills to communicate effectively with patients
- Provides patient education regarding test preparations
- Communicates technical information such as answering inquiries regarding test results, methodology, test specificity and sensitivity and specific factors that can influence test results to concerned/authorized healthcare professionals
- Communicates, interacts and collaborates with other healthcare professionals
- Participates in the evaluation of new techniques and procedures in the laboratory
- Conducts clinical research involving patients or human beings requiring the use of and/or application of medical technology knowledge and procedures
- Assists in providing instruction in theory, technical skills, safety protocols, and application of laboratory test procedures to new staff to achieve technical competence

Skills and Competencies

- Behavioral
  - Initiative
  - Integrity
  - Service-orientation
  - Teamwork
  - Work well under pressure
  - Outcome-oriented
- Technical
  - Computer literacy - ability to operate a basic computer system
  - Psychomotor - use of the sense of sight and touch and coordinated movement of the hands and fingers
  - Detail-oriented - ability to have an eye for details
  - Interpretative - ability to utilize recalled knowledge to interpret or apply numeric or visual data
  - Problem Solving and Analytical Decision Making - ability to utilize recalled knowledge and the interpretation/ application of distinct criteria to resolve a problem or situation and/or make an appropriate decision
  - Communication - ability to express thoughts and ideas clearly, both oral and written
  - Management – ability to handle resources made available to perform laboratory testing following established standards, procedures and guidelines

Basic Educational Requirement

A 4-year Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology, also known as medical laboratory science, with a minimum of 1,080 hours of internship in a training laboratory accredited by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and passing the Licensure Examination given by the Professional Regulatory Board of Medical Technology under the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) are required for practice.

Cost of Education

Cost of education may range from P30,000 to P50,000 per semester in private schools and universities. The cost may be 40 to 50 % lesser in public educational institution.