

Autopsy Assistant

Overview	<p>Autopsy assistants help physicians, coroners and forensic pathologists with autopsies and inquests. They assist pathologists at autopsies by laying out surgical instruments and preparing solutions for preservation of specimens. They also transfer bodies from morgue to examining table. Autopsy assistants remove organs and tissue specimens, as instructed by attending pathologist, and placing them in preservative solutions. They also clean and sew up bodies for release to funeral home.</p> <p>Common job responsibilities of autopsy assistants include the preparation of the autopsy room, helping with the examination of the dead bodies, collecting, measuring, weighing, preparing and storing tissue specimens. Restoration of the organ remains after the completion of the autopsy and to complete the paperwork.</p>											
NOC Code	Other assisting occupations in support of health services (3414)											
Alias Job Titles	Autopsy technologist - medical laboratory; Autopsy technical assistant; Histology technologist; Histology technologist - medical laboratory; Histopathology attendant; Morgue attendant; Morgue technicians											
Qualifications Required	On-the-job training given that the candidates can demonstrate sufficient knowledge and experience of human anatomy, physiology, forensic science, medical terminology											
Salary Range	<table><tr><td>Average hourly</td><td>Range hourly</td><td>Average yearly</td><td>Range yearly</td></tr><tr><td>\$23.07</td><td>\$11.92 - \$28.91</td><td>\$44,989</td><td>\$23,241 - \$56,374</td></tr></table> <p>Disclaimer: There were not enough data on the salary on this job. Based on several job advertisement the salary/wages of typical lab assistant has been given.</p>				Average hourly	Range hourly	Average yearly	Range yearly	\$23.07	\$11.92 - \$28.91	\$44,989	\$23,241 - \$56,374
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Job Demand	Unknown											

	Employment outlook is good to fair in most provinces. More information is available here .
Growth Opportunity	Depending on the work settings i.e., private laboratory, hospital, community and public health clinic, institutional research labs, biotechnology/ pharmaceutical companies, management positions are usually achievable. Some Pathology Assistants go into teaching and training and become instructors in institutions, and others go to research.
Years' Experience Required	0-1 year
Training Options (if available)	<p>There is no specific program available to become an autopsy assistant. However, the following programs may help enrich your profile in search for this job:</p> <p>Forensic Identification at Humber College</p> <p>Biotechnology – Advanced (Formerly named –Biotechnology Technologist – Forensics) at Fleming College</p>
Personal Qualities	Manual dexterity, Patience, Precise in work, diligent, communication skills; leadership; time management; medical terminology knowledge; Interest to spend long time in lab settings; ability to work in stressful situations at times; very diligent and careful; reasonable physical stamina; must be detail oriented and able to follow strict procedures; must be able to work both independently and as part of a team; should have good interpersonal skills.
Notes/Other Information	<p>Autopsy assistants may need to work long time sitting or standing. They are required to be diligent and often need prolonged visual focus and repetitive motions.</p> <p>There is risk of being exposed to strong chemicals, biological hazards, infectious diseases and the potential for needle prick injuries. They need to be extremely cautious and careful to follow laboratory safety procedures to</p>

be safe from contracting infection, and ensure the safety of patients and co-workers.

They may work full-time or part-time hours or on a call-in (casual) basis.

Difference between Autopsy Assistant/Morgue Technicians and Pathology Assistant

Pathology assistants generally work in hospital laboratories, private research labs and teaching facilities, according to the [AAPA](#). They also work in morgue settings, especially when they assist forensic pathologist where they may work with organs and tissues of dead bodies. Morgue technicians/Autopsy Assistants work in hospital and city morgues. While Pathology Assistants are required to have college/university degrees, morgue technicians/autopsy assistants generally only need a high school or equivalent diploma. The salaries between the two professions also differ greatly. Pathologists' assistants earn an average yearly salary of \$69,854, according to [Neuvoo](#). According to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) system autopsy assistants/morgue technicians are classified as 'Other assisting occupations in support of health services (3414)', while pathology assistants are classified as 'Medical laboratory technicians and pathologists' assistants (3212)'. The average salary for autopsy assistants is listed at \$44,989 per year.

Steps towards capacity building to become competitive for this job

1. Working as an emergency medical personnel/nurse aide/health care aide/medical laboratory assistant may be considered as acceptable experience for IMGs in Canada for this position.
2. Having a certification or courses on Forensic science might help as well enriching the resume.

References and resources

- i. [Alberta Learning Information Service](#)
- ii. [Job Bank Canada](#)
- iii. [National Occupation Classification ESDC](#)
- iv. [Neuvoo](#)
- v. [Indeed](#)