Medical Laboratory Technician/Technologist (MLT)

Overview	Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLT) performs various diagnostic and prognostic laboratory tests as advised by doctors. They collect various specimens of the body including blood, body fluids, body tissues, and other samples followed by processing, testing, and reporting the results. Areas of clinical laboratory where they work include biochemistry, hematology, immunology, histology and microbiology departments. They operate various delicate, and hi-tech equipment such as light microscopes, advanced analyzing devices, and computers to test the samples. MLTs may work in various settings such as hospital/clinic laboratories, blood banks, research laboratories of hospitals, universities and colleges.
NOC Code	Medical laboratory technologists (3211)
Alias Job Titles	Advanced registered technologist - medical laboratory; Autopsy technologist - medical laboratory; Biochemistry technologist - medical laboratory; Blood bank technologist; Charge technologist - medical laboratory; Clinical immunology technologist; Clinical laboratory technologist; Combined laboratory and x-ray technologist; Cytogenetics technologist - medical laboratory; Cytology technologist; Cytotechnologist - medical laboratory; Electron microscopy technologist - medical laboratory; Hematology technologist - medical laboratory; Histology technologist; Histology technologist - medical laboratory; Histopathology technologist; Histotechnologist - medical laboratory; Immunohematology technologist; Immunohematology technologist - medical laboratory; Immunology technologist - medical laboratory; In-charge technologist - autopsy services; Medical laboratory supervisor; Medical laboratory technical supervisor; Medical laboratory technologist - anatomical pathology; Medical technologist; Medical technologist - medical laboratory; Medical technologists supervisor; Microbiology technologist - medical laboratory; Registered medical technologist; Registered technologist - medical; Serology technologist; Tissue technologist - medical laboratory;

Qualifications Required	A 2-2.5 years post-secondary diploma program on medical laboratory technology available in many colleges across Canada. For examples: SAIT, NAIT, Michener Institute, Saskatchewan Polytechnic etc. Find more
Salary Range	Average hourly: $33.37 | Range hourly: $18.16 - $42.69 | Average yearly: $65,072 | Range yearly: $35,407 - $83,244
Job Demand	Medium Employment outlook is mostly good across 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 MLTs go into teaching and training and become instructors in institutions, and others go to research. However, for whom licensing for MLTs is difficult they have some alternative options such as Food Science Technologist, Health Information Management, Bio/chemical technologist in industries and research labs etc. More information is available here.
Years' Experience Required	None. Requires a 2-year diploma program certificate from an accredited institution
Training Options (if available)	Programs available at across countries. List of accredited programs can be found here.
Personal Qualities	Good 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	Medical laboratory technologists may need to work long time sitting or standing. They are required to be diligent and often need prolonged visual focus and repetitive motions. 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 be safe from contracting infection, and ensure the safety of patients and co-workers, laboratory technologists practise safe work procedures. Laboratory technologists may work full-time or part-time hours or on a call-in (casual) basis. This is regulated in most provinces and require certification from Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) in most of the provinces (AB, SK, NL, MB, ON, NB and NS) with the exception of Quebec wher a certification from Ordre professionnel des technologistes médicaux du Québec is required.. It is unregulated in some province and territories (PEI, NU, NT, YT), however, most employer require CSMLS certification anyway.
Steps towards capacity building to become competitive for this job	1. Get admitted into diploma program for medical laboratory technology in an accredited college in Canada. The admission into some colleges maybe competitive and require admission tests/interview and/or prerequisite course. 2. Complete a two to three-year program in medical laboratory technology with practicum 3. Write and pass the national certification exam to be certified by the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS). 4. Getting admission into the diploma program may be challenging as they are highly competitive. However, taking some open courses related to laboratory technology may facilitate the admission. For example, some such courses are available in NAIT and they give an edge to those applicants who completed some of those courses already.
References and resources	i. Alberta Learning Information Service ii. Job Bank Canada iii. National Occupation Classification ESDC iv. Neuvoo v. Indeed